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BREAKAWAY

Marconi's star wing back

Brendan Renaud: Marconi's star left wing back, unleashing one of his lethal left footed thunderbolts.

By John Economos

Brendan Renaud, Marconi's star left wingback, has been plagued by two niggling injuries over the past three weeks that have hugely hindered him from starting in the first team.

Renaud's fitness has caused Marconi some real concern, as without his penetrating raids down the flank to whip in his quality crosses, Marconi's width and sting have greatly suffered.

The star left flanker who has scored a couple of sensational and life-saving goals for Marconi with his lethal left boot, has been suffering from a hip injury as well as through stress fractures to his ankle.

He came off the bench against the Spirit and aggravated the injuries, but recently has made some rapid recovery.

Last season the phlegmatic Renaud blasted a magnificent 'Brazilian styled' goal against the Perth Glory that rocked the entire Marconi Stadium to level the scores but ultimately yielded Marconi a very precious 3-2 win.

Following a scrambled clear out by the Glory defence, Renaud from just outside the penalty area and wide out on the left, trapped the ball onto his right thigh.

The blond defender then let it drop , before unleashing a left footed violent volley that rocketted into the top right corner of the target.

Earlier this season and again at home, against South Melbourne, Marconi was trailing 0-1.

Again it was Renaud that came to Marconi's rescue.

Lining up a Marconi free kick from very close-range, and with the Souths' goal-line completely stacked with defenders, Renaud scored with a late and stunning equaliser.

With geometric precision, Renaud struck a sharply dipping drive over the 'wall' and just under the horizontal to lock up the scoreline at 1-1 and get Marconi out of jail.

Second Division League in the Making

By Bert van Bedaf

Several former national league clubs nationwide have been approached to form a new league, which is being planned to kick off by October next year.

Formation of the league has arisen out of frustration with the slow rate of reforms by Soccer Australia, which is still procrastinating over the introduction of a national second division, following the reduction of the NSL from 16 to 12 clubs next season.

The privately-organised league wants to be included in the official Soccer Australia program and function as a second division to the NSL, but also tap into the Asian market.

Calling itself the United Soccer League of Australia, it has been asking for expressions of interest from clubs around the country, according to a document obtained by ABSW.

"The vision behind the United Soccer League of Australia is to act as a stepping stone to the National (Soccer) League. Once clubs have committed participating in the league, the USLA will apply to Soccer Australia for National League Division Two status," the USLA told clubs in its clarion-call document.

"Clubs throughout Australia have waited in the wings for Soccer Australia to expand the game beyond its current borders and beyond the current NSL format, which offers little hope for progressive clubs to move up to the next level of professional football," the document continued.

"State markets are saturated with too much of the same mediocre football product.

Continued on page 3

The Magnificent Melta

Former record holder for most NSL matches played, the fabulous and best Sergio Melta, in Sydney last week, reading the best, ABSW.

See Liverpool's goal that sunk Man. United ... See 'Good Oil' page 4

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JOEYS CRUISE INTO NEXT ROUND

AUSTRALIA	5
SAMOA	0

GAME FOUR

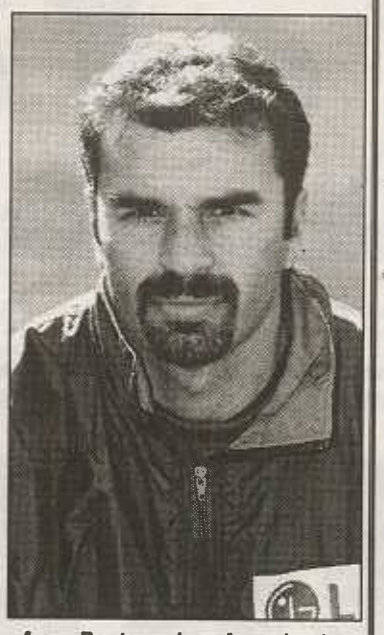
Australia wrapped finished on top of Group A of the Oceania Football Confederation Under-17 Qualifiers, with a comfortable 5-0 victory over home nation Samoa last week.

The Joeys were kept goalless to half time, but then opened the floodgates, captain for the day Alex Wilkinson leading the way with a header which opened the scoring in the 47th minute.

Twenty minutes later, midfielder Fred Agius brought his goal tally for the tournament to seven, capitalising on a goalkeeping error to put Australia's second away, which increased to 3-0 just two minutes later by striker Matthew Engele.

Second half replacement Anthony Danze headed in Australia's fourth in the 83rd minute, while Wilkinson wrapped the game up for the Joeys, with a shot from just outside of the box in the last minute of play, the defender coming home with three goals to his credit.

"It was another difficult match, the ground was in particularly poor condition as you might expect with the number of games played on it, it was very bumpy and hard, and the Samoans played defensively," said coach Ange Postecoglou after the game.


Ange Postecoglou: An unbeaten start as Under 17 Coach.

"Overall, I'm delighted with the performance of the whole squad — we've scored 43 goals in four games and haven't conceded one, and on top of that picked up just 2 yellow cards in the tournament, and I really couldn't ask any more of the players." he concluded.

AUSTRALIA 5:
(A Wilkinson 47' 89', F Agius 67', M Engele 69', A Danze 83')
SAMOA 0:

AUSTRALIAN LINE-UP:
Jacob Rex (gk); Rodney Madigan, Alex Wilkinson (capt), Brett Studman (Carl Valeri 42'); Michael Brown, Russell Waller (Anthony Danze 78'), Massimo Murdocca, Sean Walsh, Fred Agius; Matthew Engele, Jay Lucas.
(capt) Sean Walsh (Michael Brown 75'), Fred Agius; Jay Lucas, Terry Smith.

PETERSEN PREFERS LATER KICK-OFFS

By Alan Clark

South Melbourne moved its home-game starting times forward one hour to 5pm this season partly because of the desire to have a regular kick-off time throughout the season, rather than have it changed periodically for television commitments.

But South coach Mike Petersen would prefer a later time, especially as the hot weather period arrives.

"(Playing at five) is not conducive for us. I'd prefer a seven o'clock kick-off. But the powers-that-be say that for corporate and crowd turn-outs, it's better at five."

South's high-energy style of play, in which the team seeks to rely on possession football whilst probing for an opening, may not be sustainable in the high temperatures of Melbourne's late afternoons in summer.

"That's the way we like to play our football," said Petersen.

"We definitely like to pass, and we want to hold our structure, waiting for the right opportunity to pull the trigger."

"It would be a pacier game, and it would suit us more if we were able to have seven o'clock (starts). But (the Board) argue that it would be too late on a Sunday night for the crowd and the kids to come along."

"I would like (a later start), and I think the players would like it. Come January and February when it's 40 degrees — it's definitely something we've got to look at (and) I've already mentioned it (to the Board)."

Mike Peterson: South Melbourne coach prefers later kick-off times.

POSSIBLE RETURN FOR FORMER KNIGHTS

By Bert van Bedaf

Andew Marth: Carlton captain.

Former Melbourne Knights players Andrew Marth and Lubo Lapsansky might well return to their old club following the upheavals at national soccer league rival Carlton and bring the glory days back to Somers St.

The Knights would clearly welcome their former stars, but the club is presently in no position to set up a possible deal.

"We would consider the option (of bringing the players back to the club). But, until the players declare themselves free agents, by law we cannot talk to them. When the players have declared themselves free agents, we would be prepared to talk to them about terms and conditions," Knights general manager Robert Hrzic said.

Lapsansky and Marth were part of the Knights championships five years ago, when the club won back-to-back titles.

Marth captained the Knights team and transferred to Carlton two seasons ago, also to become captain. Both players are a major part of Carlton's midfield and attacking abilities as they were at the Knights.

COSMOS TO TRAVEL IN STYLE

By Graham Cooke

While Canberra Cosmos chairman Danny Moulis continued his quest for a major sponsorship deal last week, the club's players learned that most of their remaining away visits will be passed in four-star comfort with the announcement of a national accommodation supporter.

Saville Park Suites, will sponsor apartment-style living for the remaining away trips to Melbourne, Adelaide and Perth. With Brisbane already completed, that leaves only Auckland where other arrangements have to be made.

Moulis said apartments were much more suitable for travelling sports teams than hotel rooms. "It also means a substantial reduction in our costs when travelling away," he said.

Saville's general manager in Canberra, Joseph Griffiths, said the deal would assist the organisation's aims of increasing its market profile.

Danny Moulis: Still chasing a major sponsorship for the club.

DOSZPOT ELECTED UNOPPOSED AS CHAIRMAN

By Graham Cooke

Steve Doszpot has been elected unopposed to a third two-year term as Soccer Canberra's president. He announced three years of negotiation had resulted in the ACT Women's Soccer Association accepting affiliate status.

Describing it as a "monumental step" in bringing soccer in Canberra under one umbrella, Doszpot paid tribute to ACTWSA president Heather Reid and Soccer Canberra's representative to the women's body, Judith Clark, for their work in the marathon talks.

The full SC board is: Clark, Alan Lee, Joe Fusca, John Murray-Wilcox, Chris Conti, Darren Shearer, Roz McQueen.

Steve Doszpot: Another three year stay as chairman.

ABSW's new email: soccer@foreignlanguage.com.au
soccerweekly@hotmail.com still available

The Great Catlin Knocks Up 100

Bobby Catlin: Clutching his coveted award, 'Goalkeeper Of The Year' trophy which he most deservingly won last season.

By John Economos

Bobby Catlin, Newcastle United's giant goalkeeper, racked up a monumental milestone last Friday night at the Marathon Stadium against the powerful South Melbourne with his 100th 'clean sheet' in the NSL

A most majestic effort really for a goalie that has played 325 games in the National League.

Former Sydney Olympic's towering goalkeeper, Gary Meier, (now retired), remains second to Catlin with 88 'clean sheets'.

The former and highly experienced international goalkeeper that has done ever-so much to keep Newcastle constantly competitive, brought up his 'ton of clean-sheets' in the NSL with a smile.

"It was great, but really the boys did much of the work to hold out Souths.

"They were just brilliant," Catlin boasted in his humble manner. Maybe so, this time Bobby.

But for the man they call 'John Wayne' for having held the fort so many, many times almost single handed for all the teams he's played for, Catlin unquestionably is one of the NSL's real long- serving heroes.

Newcastle's coach, the normally verbose Lee Sterrey, stated to ABSW:

"Bobby is simply the best goalkeeper in Australia. That's why I signed him."

The 35 year old Catlin who previously played with Apia-Leichhardt, then almost 10 years with Marconi, transferred to Sydney Olympic for a season before joining Lee Sterrey's then called, the Newcastle Breakers.

During his NSL career, Catlin took off two years to play in England for Notts County.

Bobby Catlin, ABSW and Australian Soccer salutes you.

Congratulations.

Bobby Catlin: In action, spreading himself whilst playing for Marconi, at the Marconi Stadium.

BREAKAWAY

By Bert van Bedaf

Continued from page 1

"The greater Australasian market beckons for progressive clubs to tap into the global market and internationalise their organisations.

"This can only happen by first grasping the opportunities that exist on the wider Australian and Asian continents. A two-tier national competition will lay the foundation for expansion of the game in the same way the game exploded on the Australian sporting consciousness in 1977.

"The criteria, which has been released for inclusion in the National Soccer League would, if applied to other football codes, exclude 90 per cent of the AFL clubs from participating in the AFL competition.

"Financial prudence is welcome, however, unrealistic financial requirements will destroy the growth of the game in this country.

"The time has come for those clubs willing to take the next step to assemble the building blocks for the game's growth. The next major building block is the United Soccer League of Australia," the document rallied clubs to its plans.

If successful, the competition will be organised along similar lines as the NSL from 1984 to 1986, with northern and southern conferences of between eight and 12 clubs each.

A summer season (from October 1 to March 31) has been suggested with games played on Sundays. There would be top-five play-offs in each conference and a USLA title grand final between the conference champions.

"The competition will be summer based and teams participating will continue to play in their respective state competitions in the winter season.

Teams listed below will be invited to participate and given priority. The league will go ahead with as few as eight and as many as 12 teams per conference," USLA said.

Clubs invited to form the northern conference would come from the ACT, NSW, Northern NSW and Queensland. Clubs asked to subscribe are Belconnen, Blacktown City, St George, Parramatta, Leichhardt, Bonnyrigg, Adamstown Rosebuds, Brisbane City, Brisbane Lions and Gold Coast City.

A southern conference would comprise clubs from South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria and Western Australia. Clubs invited to join are Adelaide Blue Eagles, Adelaide Olympic, Launceston City, Green Gully Cavaliers, Bentleigh Greens, Altona East Phoenix, Bulleen Zebras, Preston Lions and Fremantle City.

Based on a 24-week season, including finals, a participating club's annual budget is projected to be nearly $600,000. Fees are offered at $100,000 over ten years, payable in two installments of $40,000 (first and fourth year) and one of $20,000 (sixth year). A "maintenance fee" of $30,000 per year will be charged on top of the licence fee.

The USLA suggests a salary cap at $15,000 per player per season. With a maximum of 20 contracted players, wages bills should amount to no more than $300,000.

Other costs included in the projected budget are accommodation ($20,000), airfares ($60,000), coaching and support staff ($80,000), and marketing ($25,000).

A meeting between USLA and clubs to further outline the project is scheduled for February.

USLA INVITES VICTORIAN CLUBS

By Bert van Bedaf

The United Soccer League of Australia has approached five Victorian Premier League clubs to play in the southern conference of its two-conference competition.

They are VPL titleholders and former national league club Green Gully, former NSL club and VPL champion Preston Lions, former VPL champion Bulleen, last season's VPL runner-up Bentleigh Greens and VPL club Altona East Phoenix.

Preston president Lucas Kostadinoski confirmed the club had considered the idea, but it had decided against it.

He said the club has reservations since it might mean stepping out of the officially sanctioned structure of Soccer Australia and the Victoria Soccer Federation.

"We'd like the idea (of a second division) and we looked at it. But we threw it out of the window, because it's too dangerous for us," Kostadinoski said.

"There are too many negative ramifications. We don't want to jeopardise our status with Soccer Australia or the VSF," he said.

Green Gully president Charles Farrugia took a more laid-back position.

"They (USLA) asked us for an expression of interest. We replied and we'll continue to communicate to see how the idea will progress," Farrugia said.

"They're taking the bull by the horns and are starting up something. A few clubs might get going and others might follow.

"I don't think, it (league) is against Soccer Australia. It should not be in opposition to Soccer Australia. But, I think, it wants to give Soccer Australia a nudge. There should be a second division," he said.

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The Good Oil ... The Good Oil ...

Danny Murphy: His heroic goal sank Manchester United.
Seen here is Murphy (No 13), curling his free kick over the 'wall' to beat United's goalkeeper Fabien Barthez just inside the first upright.

By John Economos

DANNY MURPHY, Liverpool's tenacious midfielder, gained heroic status early yesterday, (Monday), morning at Old Trafford, Manchester.

It was Murphy's free kick two minutes from half-time, that scored the sole goal that gave Liverpool a shock 0-1 win over the English Premier League leaders, Manchester United.

Liverpool's great win brought to an abrupt halt United's unbeaten run of 36 home games.

Five long years, (almost to the day), have elapsed since Liverpool last beat the Reds.

United's last home loss was against Paul Okon's Middlesbrough, two years ago.

●●●●

MILE STERJOVSKI, the former Parramatta Power's stylish striker, last week scored a brilliant brace for his French club Lille, who sensationally beat hot-favourites Paris St Germain in a French League clash.

Another Aussie striker, 1860 Munich's Paul Agostino, also scored.

The Aussie international striker's goal helped to lift his team to a 3-2 win over Energie Cottbus, last week.

However last Sunday Agostino in the second half nailed in his 11th goal of the season when 1860 Munich downed Hamburg SV 2-1.

●●●●

David Hill: Sued last week by Club Marconi.

FORMER Soccer Australia Chairman, David Hill lost his long-standing case against Club Marconi last week.

Hill was sued by Club Marconi for a defamatory statement he made two years ago in the glossy mag, Playboy.

It's believed that Hill was forced to make a substantial settlement out of court.

●●●●

SYDNEY OLYMPIC's Chairman and car-magnate, Nick Politis, is believed to have threatened legal action should his Club lose the three points they secured with a win over Carlton.

Carlton, that's on the verge of being ostracised from the League because of its financial turmoil, lost its only match to date against Olympic.

The NSL has already stipulated, that should Carlton drop out of the League, all points involving Carlton's matches to date will be annulled.

Nick Politis: Sydney Olympic's Chairman, threatening legal action against the NSL.

With Olympic being the only side to have defeated Carlton, (Round 5), this season, the Club's Chief was angered by the League's pending decision.

Politis was reported to have stated: "We've done nothing wrong, so why are we being punished?

"Maybe this suits the other clubs because nobody else has beaten them.

"But it's totally unfair on us and we will not take it lying down.

"As far as I'm concerned, Soccer Australia have been negligent in allowing Carlton to start the competition when they knew there was going to be serious financial difficulties.

"We owe it to our fans and our players to fight for the points," ended Politis.

When 'Good Oil' contacted an NSL official last week, all he would state, was:

"We have no other choice but to annul all the Carlton points.

"There just is no other solution to this unfortunate situation," he lamented.

●●●●

Mile Sterjovski: Brilliant brace against Paris St Germain.

BEN BURGESS, the Northern Spirit's towering teenaged goal-ace, has now joined the League's top goalscorers with a personal tally of six.

The England import, scored his sixth last Sunday night in the Spirit's 1-1 away draw against the Melbourne Knights.

Burgess now joins Joe Miller, Archie Thompson, and Andy Vlahos at the top of the goal-scoring charts with six.

In second spot with five goals to date are Jon Angelucci, (Canberra), Bobby Despotovski, Perth Glory), Paul Foster, (Brisbane), Damian Mori, (Perth Glory) and Paul Trimboli, (South Melbourne).

Ben Burgess: (left), hurdles over the Melbourne Knights' Sasho Ognenovski last Sunday at the Knights Stadium.

Alex Tobin: New record holder with 446 matches in the NSL.

●●●●

WHICH NSL Club Chairman is having lunch with a Soccer Australia Commissioner tomorrow, (Wednesday)?

And why? Standby for action sometime next week.

●●●●

THE LEAGUE's record holder, (up until last Saturday night), for most matches played in the NSL, (445), Adelaide City's magnificent midfielder Sergio Melta, was in Sydney last Wednesday as special guest for the Parramatta Power.

Sergio Melta: Last week in Sydney, the best reading the best.

The Good Oil ... The Good Oil

Melta attended a function at the Parramatta Stadium in honour of his former team-mate, Alex Tobin, who had then equalled Melta's record.

Last Saturday night in Bathurst, Tobin broke Melta's longstanding record in the Power's match against the Eastern Pride.

Tobin celebrated in setting the new record, (446), under mixed circumstances.

The 35-year-old Tobin, captained the Power to a valuable 2-0 win over the Pride.

However Alex missed out on a bonus by not scoring with his effort from the penalty spot which was saved by the Pride's goalkeeper, Bojo Jevdjevic.

●●●●

SERGIO MELTA, the previous record holder up until last Saturday night for most matches played, (445), in the NSL, whilst in Sydney last Tuesday morning, briefly spoke to 'Good Oil'

"It's been great to have originally set the record, and now it's great to see that Alex (Tobin), is about to break it."

The magnificent Melta, who is Zoran Matic's assistant coach at Adelaide City, played no less than 264 games in the NSL with Tobin at Adelaide City.

Although Melta played his last game in the NSL in the 1995 Grand Final at Hindmarsh Stadium against the Melbourne Knights, Melta today still trains with the team.

After Adelaide City has finished training, Melta instead of going in for a shower, scoots off on a five kilometre jog, would you believe.

In breaking Melta's record, the towering Tobin played 436 matches with Adelaide City and ten this season to date with the Power.

In contrast, Melta played all his record 445 NSL games only with Adelaide City between 1984 and 1995.

●●●●

WHILST on the subject, below who have Top Ten players of having played the most games in the NSL.:

ALEX TOBIN: Adelaide City, Parramatta Power, 1984-2000= 446.

SERGIO MELTA: Adelaide City, 1984-1995= 445.

MIKE O'SHEA: St George, Canberra City, Wollongong Wolves, 1977-1996= 406.

THEO SELEMIDIS: Heidelberg, Melbourne Knights, 1977-1994= 393.

PAUL TRIMBOLI: Sunshine George Cross, South Melbourne, 1987-2000= 382.

GARY PHILLIPS: Sydney Olympic, Brisbane Strikers, 1982-1997= 377.

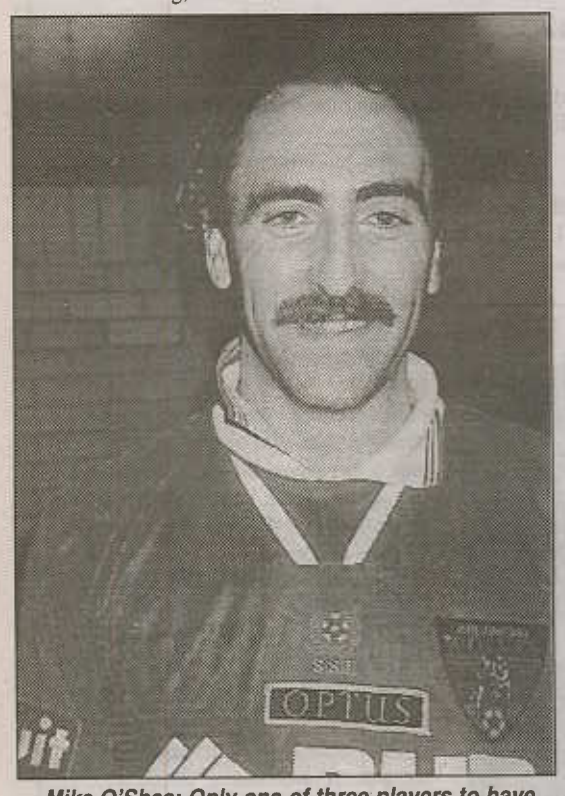
ROBBIE HOOKER: Sydney City, Sydney Olympic, Adelaide Sharks, Sydney United, Marconi, Canberra Cosmos, 1986-2000= 368.

DANNY WRIGHT: Brisbane Lions, South Melbourne, Brisbane Strikers, 1980-1997=353.

GRAHAM JENNINGS: Sydney Olympic, Sydney United, Leichhardt, Newcastle Breakers=351.

JOHN MARKOVSKI: Sunshine George Cross, Preston, Melbourne Knights, Marconi, Eastern Pride, Canberra Cosmos, Carlton=349.

Tommy Sermanni: Sets new Club record with the Canberra Cosmos.



Mike O'Shea: Only one of three players to have amassed more than 400 games in the National Soccer League.

●●●●

TOMMY SERMANNI, the Canberra Cosmos' most amicable and moustachioed coach, last Saturday night in the game against Sydney Olympic at the Bruce Stadium, set a new record for his Club.

The former Scot became the Canberra Cosmos' longest serving coach, having racked up 60 straight games in command.

The previous record was set by Canberra Cosmos' inaugural coach, Englishman Mike Lyons.

Ironically, Sermanni's first coaching position in the NSL was with Saturday's opponent, Sydney Olympic.

Sermanni was coach of Olympic during the season of 1993-94.

By John Economos

●●●●

GLASGOW RANGERS' YOUTH TEAM is on its way to Sydney early next month on a development tour towards building a goodwill relationship that in the future will see the Rangers first team tour Sydney.

Whilst in Sydney, the Rangers' Youth squad will play five games that will include two matches against the Australian Youth team, a game each against the Northern Spirit's Youth and NSL first team.

As well, the Young Rangers will play a match against a NSW Under 20s Select side.

The 19 man squad arrives in Sydney on January 4th and departs for Scotland on January 23rd.

Game Schedule:

Game No1: January 5th, Northern Spirit Youth vs Rangers' Youth, 5.30pm North Sydney Oval.

Game No2: January 9th, Australian Youth team vs Rangers' Youth, 7pm at the Bruce Stadium, Canberra.

Game No3: January 13th, Northern Spirit vs Rangers' Youth, at 5pm at North Sydney Oval.

Game No 4: Australian Under 20s vs Rangers' Youth, at 6pm at the North Sydney Oval.

Game No 5: NSW Under 20s Select vs Rangers' Youth at 5.pm, at the North Sydney Oval.

The two games on January 5th and 19th at North Sydney Oval will be played as 'Curtain Raisers' to the Northern Spirit's NSL matches against the Canberra Cosmos and South Melbourne respectively.

The Spirit's Media Liason Officer David Mason, stated to 'Good Oil': "The Rangers' Youth side contains some exciting young players, some who have already played for the first team.

"A five man coaching and medical staff will accompany the travelling squad.

"The Spirit tried to arrange the Rangers first team to come out during the Winter shutdown.

"But they had already been booked to tour to Florida in the USA.

"We sincerely hope that they will come out here at a later date," ended Mr Mason.

Meanwhile the Spirit's head coach Graham Arnold was also excited about the coming tour with Rangers.

"It is going to give our guys a chance to clash with some real quality opposition from a giant overseas club.

"It can only benefit us," said Arnold

●●●●

VINKO BULJUBASIC, the Perth Glory's defender who broke his leg almost two years ago in a clash with the Adelaide Sharks' former heavyweight striker, (now with the Power), Hamilton Thorp, broke down at training last week.

This time however it seems that Vinko has stirred up an old groin injury which has now plunged his future into serious doubt.

Vinko Buljubasic: Future now in serious doubt.

●●●●

ADAM GRIFFITH and Daniel Watkins, the Northern Spirit pair, will now remain with the Eastern Pride for a further eight weeks.

The duo were originally loaned out for four weeks but the Spirit have consented they can remain with the Pride till early next year.

Adam Griffiths: Still on loan to the Pride.

'GOOD OIL' would like to take this golden opportunity to wish all its most valued readers a nice Christmas next Monday.

But most importantly, 'Good Oil' wishes you all a Safe and Healthy New Year.

Please drive carefully over the holidays as the life you save, may be your very own.

Graham Arnold: The Spirit' head coach is looking forward to the tour by Rangers early next month.

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OFF THE CROSSBAR

By Allan Crisp

THIRD TIME LUCKY

Steve Nikolic has begun his latest stint as White City Woodville chairman in the firm belief that the third time lucky doctrine will prevail.

Club stalwart Nikolic first held the Warriors chairmanship in 1989 when former Australian international John Nyskohus was coach.

Nikolic stayed in the position for one season, but three years later resumed for a further three seasons, a golden period that culminated in the Warriors winning the 1993 first division championship and Federation Cup double.

Former Adelaide City champion and Socceroo defender Bugsy Nyskohus was the player coach that remarkable season when White City defied the odds to climb from rock bottom to win the grand final.

While Nikolic vacated the chair for the next five seasons, he remained steadfastly loyal to his beloved club.

Nikolic is hoping that the appointment of Australian international sweeper Milan Ivanovic as player-coach will herald a return to former glories.

"We hope that Milan will stay with us for at least three seasons," Nikolic said. "He has signed as a player-coach, but it will be up to him to decide if the team needs him on the field.

Ivanovic has begun training his new charges and is quietly optimistic about the strength of the squad.

"Brad Armour is staying with the club, along with most of last season's squad, but will be losing Damien Stam and Daniel Ferreira," Ivanovic said.

White City has drawn a formidable opponent in the plum opening fixture of the 2001 Summer Series when it takes on Croydon Kings at Hindmarsh Stadium on Monday, January 15.

Milan Ivanovic: Player/Coach at White City Woodville.

RAIDERS READY

Rocky Aloisi's Raiders have lost the talented Karlovic brothers, Ivan and Mario to Adelaide City Force, while Daniel Mignone is set to join the Playford City Patriots.

But, Aloisi reports that he has recruited key strikers Chris Nicholls from Cumberland Foxes and Joe Blefari from Modbury Jets.

"We have started light training in preparation for the new Summer Series," said Aloisi, who brimmed with enthusiasm over the club's new Croatian Sports Centre Complex at Gepps Cross.

The Raiders and visiting clubs will marvel at the four new "no waiting" change rooms and the splendid new pitch, prepared by expert curator Les Burdett.

The facility will be ready for the 2001 Premier League season.

FORCEFUL MOVE

Adelaide City believes it has enhanced its chances of being included in the restructured 12-team NSL series when, last Sunday, it set the wheels in motion to raise the money to buy the Ram Park Complex at Oakden.

A meeting of club members voted to purchase the six-acre complex and a 10-person sub-committee was appointed to help raise the finance.

The City management has negotiated a reported bargain price $750,000 deal with the SA Government to make the former Adelaide Rams rugby league headquarters its new home, which has been valued at $1.08 million.

The Government last month rejected an offer of $650,000 for the complex from the MS Society.

Club president Bob D'Ottavi said he was delighted that the members agreed to buy Ram Park, believing that the purchase should improve the image of the club.

"This will help the club to meet the criteria set by Soccer Australia for next season, but most of all, will secure the existence of the club for many more generations," D'Ottavi said.

Members were invited to take part in the fund raising by becoming foundation members of the project by paying a minimum $1000, or by buying personal engraved pavers at $250 each.

The sub-committee is Pat Pine, Joe Lopresto, Ugo Rossetto, Angelo Salamone, Nadia Calabro, Emilio Police, Luca Ferracamo, Domenic Monteleone, Fred Russo and Domenic D'Anbrosio.

Ram Park has become a key element in negotiations between the SA Government and Adelaide City over the future use of Hindmarsh Stadium, which was the Force administrative centre before the Olympic Games football tournament was staged at the revamped venue.

LUCKY STARS

Outstanding young Metro Stars player Jason Pedron is counting his lucky stars that he is alive after suffering career threatening injuries in a motor bike accident while on holiday in Greece.

The brake line snapped while Pedron was riding and the bike sped headlong towards the edge of a steep cliff.

Pedron threw himself off the machine seconds before it careered over the edge. He sustained multiple fractures to his arms and legs and is faced with a lengthy rehabilitation period.

Metro Stars coach Mario Boffa is hoping Pedron makes a full recovery and that he will eventually be able to resume his promising career.

Boffa also has lost Carlo Talladira, Joe Berlingeri, Michael Berlingeri, John Fontanarosa and Paul Pezos from last season's squad.

Flame-haired Talladira has retired as a player to concentrate on his coaching duties with Adelaide City, while Sergio Melta Medal winner Fontanarosa also is contemplating quitting the game.

"John is to be married in March and has begun a new career," Boffa said. "I'm still hoping to convince him to change his mind about retiring, but I'll understand and support any decision he makes."

Michael Berlingeri is sidelined for at least the pending season after suffering terrible leg damage last season, while his brother Joe is training with Raiders.

The good news for Metro Stars comes with the signing of Port Lion pair Dino Sordillo and Steve DeGioviannello and the return after a season's spell of Mark Camilleri.

Big things also are expected of SASI youngsters, Jordan Darcie and Steven Taddeo.

Allan Crisp can be heard for the last time this year on Tuesday morning when he joins John Perin, Robbie Popplestone and Meno Toutsidis on the 5RPH (1197AM) Breakfast Soccer Show from 7.30am-9am.
The radio roustabouts will take a one-program break on Boxing Day, but threaten to return to the Adelaide airwaves on Tuesday, January 2.

WOLLONGONG NEWS

By Otto Bader

BRANDON PARK LOST — Soccer is gone for good from the intended home of south coast soccer when it was build first. Originally a dump, Community efforts lobbied the Government and local Council to open up the empty land for sports facilities. Soccer was not allowed to use what is now WIN Stadium and eventual had itís own home, Brandon Park.

It is official now according to a press release that the Government struck a deal with the Wollongong Sports Ground Trust worth around $10 million with WIN Television participating in financing the improvements. According to Acting Premier Andrew Refshauge the Stadium will be upgraded to international requirements including extra seating as demanded by the NRL.

Brandon Park is to be transformed into a high-tech-business centre by the University of Wollongong. Details as to the exact modifications for WIN Stadium will be worked out by the Trust, needing to pay off some considerable debts first.

■■■■

CLUB MANAGEMENT AND COACHING STAFF ROPABLE — the handling of the South Melbourne versus Wollongong Wolves game was criticised by both coaches claiming the neutral man in the middle was not competent enough for a big match like this and disadvantaged either team.

It is not often that both coaches complain bitterly of the whistleblower, it must have been a puzzling performance by the man appointed. The word 'dumbfounded' was used by the Melbourne coach and some strong opinion uttered by the Wolves coach.

Unfortunately poor refereeing can affect the outcome of a game and points won or lost. Coach Ron Corry maintained ëstrong defence will win games and if things are not in order at the back you concede goals, as was the case against South Melbourne. He will demand tightening up in the back line.

■■■■

MENNILLO RETURNS FROM SCOTLAND TRIAL — Dino Mennillo trailed with Scottish Club Dundee United and was informed to return to the club for a possible contract. The Wolves think very highly of the gifted midfield and would be looking at a hefty transfer fee if the Scottish giants require his services.

■■■■

STRIKER HITS WOODWORK — While the referee managed to upset both teams in Melbourne recently, Wolves striker Sasho Petrovski develops a liking for hitting the goals posts, it denied him a goal in Melbourne and in previous matches Sasho hit the wood four times. It must be surely now time to find the net.

■■■■

RECORD EQUALLED — Wolves striker Scott Chipperfield equalled the club's all-time goalscoring record when he opened the account at Bob Jane Stadium in Melbourne last weekend, taking his tally to 36 goals which is the same as former Wolves Striker Pat ëBrodnik who is apparently still following the Wolves efforts with interest from abroad.

■■■■

NEW BOY LOOKS GOOD — Striker Paul Harris, a local product, just returned from a three-year stint in the UK playing with several lower division sides is now taking up solid training with the Wollongong team. Coach Ron Corry is impressed and hopes to sign him up to create a bit more depth in his squad.

The coach is also eyeing another player from down south if he becomes available.

■■■■

WOLVES CUBS NOT GOING WELL — despite some losses recently the coach is not to disturbed pointing out that he had to accommodate six youngsters for the senior squad which is great news for the players concerned but not so for the future success of the youth grade side.

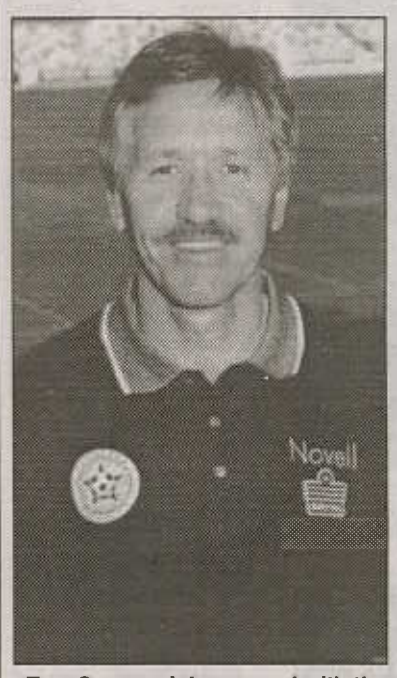
The senior coach needs these boys for a 22-man squad to take part in the World Club Championship. That means a number of youth team regulars don't make the youth side and sit in the grand stand. At the end of the day the youth team is there to supply potential first graders.

■■■■

Cortes impresses on Cosmos debut

By Graham Cooke

After more than a month of international grid lock, Milton Cortes finally became a Canberra Cosmos player last week — and coach Tom Sermanni said he would waste no time bringing the former Uruguayan international into the first team.



Tom Sermanni: Impressed with the skill of the Uruguayan.

A letter from FIFA resulted in the Uruguayan Football Association dropping its demand for an almost $1000 fee for releasing the midfielder, after negotiations had dragged on without any end in sight.

Despite Cortes having gone five months without playing a competitive game, Sermanni said he could not afford to be left idle any longer with injuries and suspensions reducing the already lean Cosmos squad to its bare bones.

"Milton has become very frustrated in recent weeks and he is raring to go," the coach said.

In securing Cortes, Sermanni has an attacking midfielder who is at his best fitting in just behind the main strikers. It is a role Andrew Clark played briefly, but very successfully, for the club at the end of the previous season.

During this campaign Alex Castro, who missed Saturday's game through suspension, has been gradually coming to terms with that role, although Sermanni was quick to point out the differences between him and Cortes.

"Alex is all strength, an aggressive runner and an intimidating competitor," he said. "Milton does not have the same physical characteristics, but relies a great deal on his skill, his ability to pick the runs other players make and to make good runs himself.

Which suggests Cortes and Castro will make a complementary pairing when both are available for the Cosmos midfield.

OLYMPICS TOP UP VSF CASH

By Bert van Bedaf

Victorian soccer's financial position was greatly boosted by a substantial windfall from the Olympic soccer matches played at the MCG last September.

Tabled at the AGM on Tuesday, December 13, the Victorian Soccer Federation's annual report was able to show an operating profit of $120,866, which included an Olympic payment of $86,462.

Without it, the "operating surplus" (profit) would have been $34,404 and down on last year's profit of $64,800.

Nevertheless, the VSF has a healthy bank balance of $250,116, well up on last year's $129,250 - almost double and definitely worth an Olympic medal.

VSF staff were heavily involved in the organisation and running of the Olympic matches at the MCG and were generally applauded for their efforts by local and international media. Staff managed 12 nights of Olympic football and looked after the training arrangements for 16 countries as well taking care of communications and security.

Understandably, VSF treasurer Vasko Stojcevski was pleased with the positive result, but he also added a note of caution, warning the federation would need to update its computer system to cope with the GST, and of course, at some expense.

"Given the financial windfall we've had as a result of the Olympic Games, one cannot stress the importance of the outcome, as we are currently operating with totally outdated software," Stojcevski said.

"The year 2001 will certainly be a very difficult year, as the full impact of the GST would have set in," he said.

The Goods and Services Tax won't only affect the VSF office. Gate tickets this coming season will be subject to GST, which may affect match attendance and therefore clubs' income.

In his address, VSF chairman Manny Galanos emphasised the overall progress of soccer in Victoria.

"Soccer in Victoria continues to move forward. According to a recent survey conducted by the (Victorian) Department of Education, more Victorian primary and secondary students are playing soccer, when compared with other (ball) codes," Galanos said.

VSF chief executive Geoff Miles reiterated those remarks.

"More than 54,000 boys and girls now actively participate in soccer programs at club and school levels in Victoria," Miles said.

Galanos listed the organisational changes at competition level introduced last season. The State Leagues were regionalised and the State League Cup was re-introduced since 1996.

This coming season, the Victorian Premier League will play a top-five finals.

A salary cap will be introduced at VPL ($85,000) and State League division one ($40,000) levels.

It was endorsed and welcomed by the clubs as a means of levelling the competitions and keeping operating costs down.

"Each club will be required to observe a limit of 'total player payments', with limits set and clubs advised accordingly," Galanos said.

A monitoring process will be put in place to ensure clubs adhere to the guidelines.

Galanos kept his fierest powder to last. He again called for a second national division and the introduction of promotion and relegation to and from the current national soccer league (NSL).

"It is a pity that our colleagues at Soccer Australia don't realise that for a league to have passion and purpose, where all rounds matter, promotion and relegation are vital and necessary ingredients," Galanos fired his main shot.

"It's been said before, and I'm sure at some stage the 'penny' will drop, the introduction of a promotion and relegation system into the NSL is imperative.

"A second division with a salary cap and ground rationalisation will work," he said.

In other matters, commissioner Jim Mills stepped down. Former Bulleen administrator Frank Ruffolo was elected in his place. Commissioners Ivan Skunca and (treasurer) Stojcevski were re-elected for further two-year terms.

Ruffolo has been involved in Victorian soccer as a player, coach and administrator. He was chief executive of the Bulleen Zebras from 1997 until late 1999.

A packed MCG for the Australia versus Italy match ensured a nice turnover for the VSF.

> *"It is a pity that our colleagues at Soccer Australia don't realise that ... promotion and relegation are vital and necessary ingredients. The introduction of a promotion and relegation system into the NSL is imperative. A second division with a salary cap will work."* — **Galanos.**

NEW ERA FOR THE GEORGIES

By Alfred Zahra

Sunshine George Cross Soccer Club is about to enter a new era in it's 53 years of history. We're about to start an era where players play the game simply for the love of it.

At a members' meeting held recnetly at Chaplin Reserve, the members voted to accept a proposal put forward by the Committee, to cut out all players' payments and participate as amateurs. This will save the Club about $40,000: in players' wages.

Paying the land off has placed a heavy financial burden on the Club, and sees this as one option of putting most funds away towards paying off the loan.

The Victorian Soccer Federation and many other clubs have applauded our decision and some will be taking the same road.

This also means that there will be greater effort placed on developing junior players with the incentive of playing senior soccer.

The Club is presently preparing what might be the busiest time it ever experienced, especially with junior players. Junior coaches are presently being interviewed by the Committee and newly appointed coach Boris Vizelman.

Boris is a very experienced coach and also the official representative of the Ukranian State University of Physical education and Sporting Culture.

He is the holder of an International Coaching Certificate and is fully accredited with the Australian coaching Council Level 3 certificate.

Boris comes with many more credentials, such as being the Victorian and International representative of the Football Management Group P/L, Under 19 Ukraine Olympic soccer team, Ukranian National League Coach/Selector, Director of "European Soccer Clinic" in Melbourne, and also the senior coach of the Ukranian "Futsal" National Indoor Soccer.

Boris has been in Australia since 1992, and his first job was as reserve coach with the Georgies when they were out of the NSL and into the Premier League.

The appointment of Boris was made from six other applicants, who's interest was to coach at Sunshine George Cross.

The Club has also agreed to partner ex Georgies import star player Tyrone James and Peter Bujak, both ex professional players from overseas, into holding Junior clincs at Chaplin Reserve.

These clincs are very popular with the youngsters and their parents, as they further improve their skill in every aspect of the game. Tyrone and Peter teach youngsters in a one-on-one system which gives every junior personal tuition, thereby getting a kind of personal attention from these two well equipped coaches.

Clinics are presently being held elsewhere, but feel that Chaplin Reserve is more centralised and familiar to all soccer fans.

These clincs are definitely going to attract a lot of young lads as they are on through the whole year and an extra to their normal seasonal coaching. All aspects of skill within the game will be covered in these programs.

Tyrone and Peter put a lot of effort into their plan, and so far it's working wonders.

Every parent that believes his son can do better, they can certainly bring their son over for that extra personal one on one tuition. There is no better way for your son to learn more on top of his usual team game.

These clinics get the kids involved from the word go, and for a small fee per training session, one will have to say it's worth it.

This Wednesday, December 20th, the Club is organising a Free BBQ for all Junior players and parents starting at 6pm.

Please see adjoining advertisement for dates and times of when these coaching clincs are being held.

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Chaplin Reserve, Anderson Rd, Sunshine. Victoria. 3020

We are happy to announce that P & T School of Soccer are going to hold Junior Clinics as from 08/01/01
There are going to be two sessions starting at 5pm and 6.30pm respectively, a duration of 90 minutes per session.
These sessions are open to all Junior age groups from Under 8's to 16 y.o. and will be conducted every Monday & Wedneday.
A $60: initial fee for all applicants covers the supply of a shirt, shorts, and socks. All other equipment supplied by P & T
(Puma Clothing)
Cost per player for every session is $12:

These clinics will further develop the skills of every player in all aspects of the game of soccer which includes:

- Personal Training
- Technique Development
- Game Sense
- Career opportunities
- Physical Development

By improving your techniques, your game will improve, and your team will benefit from the services of a better player. Call now, and find out which session suits you.

For any other inquiries call Ms Monica Mansilla on 0413 590 782
Or ... Tyrone James on 0412 173 377
Peter Bujak on 0428 486 678

ADMINISTOR FOR CARLTON AS NOOSE TIGHTENS

By Bert van Bedaf

No game, no glory was the result of Carlton's cartwheels last week as the final vestiges of survival crumbled around owner Peter Jess, his adviser Phil Cleary and the unpaid players.

Soccer Australia made its decision last Friday afternoon, announcing, "Sunday's round 10 NSL match between Carlton and Perth Glory, scheduled for Epping stadium", had been postponed".

It was the second Carlton match to meet such fate. The Blues did not travel to Adelaide City in round nine the previous week.

Soccer Australia made the decision after Carlton entered into voluntary administration last Thursday. Jess appointed administrator Wayne Lamb to take charge of affairs, when the taxman knocked on Carlton's door.

Significantly, having entered into voluntary administration has caused Carlton to breach its agreement with the NSL, effectively giving Soccer Australia the power to cut Carlton from the competition.

The week began bright enough with furniture millionaire Tony Schiavello emerging as Carlton's potential saviour.

A deal had been worked out, whereby Schiavello would guarantee Carlton until the end of the season by injecting $200,000 into the ailing club.

No sooner had Schiavello spoken the words, the Australian Tax Office entered the scene demanding a payment of $267,000 in (group) back taxes, effectively wanted Schiavello's payment.

"We received a letter from the tax office saying before we paid anything to anyone we would have to pay the department first," a shocked Schiavello said.

Schiavello offered paying $30,000 to make good players' wages for the match against Perth Glory, when he was made aware there also were no provisions to pay match expenses, such as ground rental, security and insurance, and he began to rethink the deal.

It is also became apparent Carlton owed other people money as well. Last Tuesday, in the Victorian Supreme Court, the Melbourne and Olympic Park Trust was awarded $219,904 and $2,000 costs relating to the costs of Carlton's use of Olympic Park Stadium last season.

Should Soccer Australia decide to take Carlton out of the competition this week, its results from eight rounds will be eliminated from the records and the league will continue with 15 teams.

Carlton's results were a win against Canberra Cosmos 2-1, Wollongong Wolves 2-2, South Melbourne 1-1, win against Sydney United 4-0, loss to Sydney Olympic 3-0, win against Eastern Pride 3-1, Football Kingz 0-0 and Northern Spirit 1-1.

Down and out: Carlton's Simon Colosimo lays on the grass as Archie Thompson looks on. Will Carlton recover from their financial blow.

Leeds and Celtic chasing partnership in WA licence

By Richard Kreider

Glamour English Premier League club Leeds United have made enquiries into coming downunder next year to play games around the country.

It is reported that they are also interested in becoming a partner in Soccer West Coast's bid for a second NSL licence in Perth.

Leeds, who have Australians Harry Kewell, Mark Viduka, Jakob Burns and ex-Glory Danny Milosevic and Kiwi Danny Hay in their squad, is one of a number of clubs that are believed to have been spoken to regarding the second licence bid.

They include West Ham United, Sheffield Wednesday, Blackburn Rovers and Scottish Premier League giants Celtic who also reportedly planning a visit.

Meanwhile, Glasgow's other footballing giants Rangers are also orgainising to trip Australia with a squad of youngsters and strengthened by a sprinkling of senior players.

Yugoslav club Red Star Belgrade are also believed to be heading downunder as soon as they can organise opponents.

Meanwhile, Soccer West Coast, the controlling body of the local State League, recently appointed former state player Keith Jones as a director. He is the brother of former Socceroo David Jones.

Leeds United striker Mark Viduka: May tour Australia with his club side next year.

Scarsella made President of O.F.C.

Soccer Australia Chairman Basil Scarsella has been selected as President of the Oceania Football Confederation.

The vote, which took place in Vanuatu last Thursday after a delay of 24 horus, saw Scarsella assume the role immediately for a term of two years until the end of 2002.

"I'm obviously very delighted with the result," stated Scarsella.

"Oceania is a constantly developing region, and the aim will be to continue moving the region in a forward direction, bringing together and unifying all of the countries to fully realise our potential and strength.

"I would also like to thank John Tinsley Lulu for the excellent job he has undertaken in the interim term, under difficult conditions, and of course acknowledge Charlie Dempsey's role within Oceania.

"Charlie was with Oceania for over 30 years, including 18 years as President, and in recognising his role as co-founder of Oceania, it's imperative we all recognise and pay homage to his valuable contribution to the region," Scarsella concluded.

At the meeting was a unanimous vote to incorporate Dempsey as an Honorary President of the Oceania Football Confederation.

Scarsella in the meantime will continue as Chairman of Soccer Australia until his successor is appointed at the Annual General Meeting, in February of next year.

The two leading candidates for this position are commissioners Tony Labbozzetta and Joe Brondolino.

Basil Scarsella: New Oceania President.

STANGE TO GO EASY ON WEHRMAN

By Richard Kreider

Perth Glory coach Bernd Stange has said he will not haul his star midfielder Kasey Wehrman over the coals following a longer than allowed absence in Europe.

The Socceroo, who came on as a substitute during the win against Scotland, returned to WA last Thursday after unsuccessful trials at Belgian club Liese and PSV Eindhoven of Holland.

He went against Glory demands to return home by remaining in the hope of clinching a deal with a club.

Despite his obvious disappointment, Wehrman said he won't be heading back overseas in a hurry, in future they will have to come to him downunder.

Wehrman has promised to give 100% to the Perth club until an overseas team throw a strong offer on the Glory table. His last game for Perth was against Sydney Olympic in November.

Kasey Wehrman: Back from a long absence.

LEAGUE LEADERS CLASH AT BELMORE

By John Economos

JOINT-League leaders Sydney Olympic and the current NSL champions Wollongong Wolves, clash this Saturday night at the Belmore Sports Ground in a pre-Christmas battle between these two League title-titans.

Action aplenty seems almost assured as both teams love to attack.

Only South Melbourne has scored more goals than Wollongong who have nailed in 19 to date.

Olympic's captain Ante Juric, stated to ABSW last night: "Saturday's match has everyone extra keen.

"Wollongong are the current League champions and we have a point to prove from last season. Hopefully we will make up for it this Saturday night.

"We have Pablo Cardozo back with our Club and everyone is in high spirit.

"Scotty Baillie made his comeback last Saturday against Canberra and played the full match as did Kresimir Marusic in the midfield," Juric said.

Olympic's lanky sweeper is not 100% himself, still suffering from a sore knee, but Juric assured ABSW that he would be playing.

The sturdy central marker Baillie had been out of action for some weeks with stress fractures to his shin bones but played the full 90 minutes in Canberra last Saturday.

Franco Parisi: Olympic's two goal hero.

Wolves' coach

Meanwhile Wollongong's coach and former Australian World Cup goalkeeper, Ronnie Corry, stated to ABSW yesterday: "I'm looking forward to Saturday's game with Olympic.

"These two teams supply all the ingredients that fans really want to see.

"Both sides can cause heart-attacks for their respective supporters the way they play with an all-out attack attitude.

"But truthfully it's a good way to play," condoned Corry.

Ante Juric: Sydney Olympic's captain and sweeper.

Corry will wait till Saturday morning to see if his star central defender David Cervinski will be fit to play against Olympic.

The 'ABSW's Player Of The Year' missed the Wolves' game last Sunday against Sydney United at the WIN Stadium due to an ankle injury.

Compounding Corry's woes is the fact that another of his tough defenders, George Souris, could also be in doubt.

Souris has been troubled also by an ankle injury.

Both defenders will have final fitness tests early Saturday morning.

Hot Striker

Wollongong's hot-shot striker Stuart Young, stated to ABSW last night: "I made my NSL debut against Olympic last year at the Belmore Sports Ground in a game that finished at 1-1.

Stuart Young: In form striker.

"In our first match against them, we copped a 0-4 thumping which was then followed by three draws against Olympic last season and I was really surprised that they didn't finish further in the 'Top Six Series'.

"Olympic gave us our hardest games last season,

Ronnie Corry: Wollongong Wolves' coach.

that's for sure," ended Young.

The intelligent Young who so far this season has struck a goal-drought patch having scored three goals, is hungrier than ever to hit the target.

Both teams are coming off wins from last week-end with Olympic downing Canberra 2-3 at the Bruce Stadium whilst Wollongong accounted for Sydney United 2-0 at the WIN Stadium.

The Wolves finally were able to get on top of a defiant United with two second half goals from striker Saso Petrovski and defender Alvin Ceccoli

Although both Olympic and Wollongong have scored 20 League points from their last 10 outings, Olympic has the edge on the League ladder, having a superior goal-difference of plus 12.

Olympic has scored 17 goals and conceded nine, and despite the fact that the Wolves have hit the target 19 times, their defence has conceded 13 goals.

Sydney Olympic's NSL debutant teenager, Franco Parisi, proved heroic for his team last Saturday night at the Bruce Stadium.

In fact Parisi proved largely instrumental for Olympic's dramatic comeback to secure a 2-3 win over the Canberra Cosmos.

Coming on in the second half, and with Olympic trailing 2-1, young Parisi inside four minutes nailed in two goals to lift Olympic to victory as well as back to the top of the League ladder.

Outstanding for Olympic were sweeper and captain Ante Juric plus industrious midfielder Peter Zorbas.

Sydney Olympic vs Wollongong Wolves

Saturday 23rd December

AT THE

BELMORE SPORTS GROUND

MAIN GAME — KICK OFF 6.30PM

Paul Kohler

David Cervinski

Nick Carle

Stuart Young

Ante Juric (captain)

Matt Horsley (captain)

See the Stars Under the Stars

Sydney Olympic, is proudly sponsored by CONTRABART-Trade Exchange

Letters to the Editor

Socceroos to do more than just qualify

Dear Sir,

The Socceroos impressive victory over Scotland comes almost three years to the day in 1997 when they failed to qualify for France 98. Devastating as this was with the players available then, there was never a realistic chance that the Socceroos would have made any impact had they qualified.

Just being there to make up the numbers as token team as was the case in 1974 was never going to impress the demanding OZ sports fans.

Going into the 2002 campaign the situation is totally different. The number of quality OZ players based overseas is unprecedented and growing. I stand by my claim made repeatedly in (ABSW) that despite endless problems the Socceroos will qualify for Japan Korea 2002 with a real prospect of qualifying for the second round.

While it is almost impossible to be optimistic about the domestic soccer scene regardless of changes, the evolving situation regarding the Socceroos is a much happier scenario.

The Socceroos have always been potentially the best product OZ soccer has to offer if not the only one. The problem has always been trying to get it right which is easier said than done.

In the end it could well be that many of the forces that more often than not undermine OZ soccer will have unintentionally provided the Australian public with its best ever Soccer team.

Frank Farina: Can he lead Australia to the 2002 World Cup.

R. Melor
Bondi, NSW

SOCCER IN A SHAMBLES

Dear Sir,

I have to agree with Kyle Patterson's comment on the TV show "On the Ball" last Sunday 10/12/00. I am also sick with Soccer Australia's autocratic, communist style of running the game!

All we hear from the people in Soccer Australia is they believe this and that. For a while now they believe a 12 team competition would be ideal for the league and bringing Carlton in etc, is a great idea.

I would like to see (demand to see surveys done in this country) that asks the people (like in an actual democracy) if we want a reduction in the league.

If a survey is actually done I am 100% certain that the results will show that the current 16 or even a 14 team league is good enough, that a 2nd division is wanted (one which all soccer states want).

Some of the other bad decisions made that will be harm soccer in Australia in the long run include giving Channel Seven, 10 year rights to our game!

What was the point of that? Ten years with a broadcast time slot of 1230am whilst the network screens repeats of American TV shows.

That network is showing us that American TV is more important then Australian programs).

Another bad decision recently is the announcement that Channel Nine will only show the 16 games of the 2002 World Cup!

Hello Channel Nine we are a multicultural country, we want to see all the games, not just the best off the World Cup!

The only decent stuff we have seen come out of Soccer Australia is a decent web site and also young Australians taking the reins as coaches to head our national teams.

In conclusion any reform without the proper feed back from the fans and players at all levels in this country themselves, will bring the game into further disrupt.

Stefan Pazur,
Quakers Hill

MARADONA THE GREATEST

Dear Sir,

There has been a lot of talk recently about who should be the player of the century.

As usual FIFA did a cop out and tried to please everyone, young and old, by proclaiming both Pelé and Maradona as equal players of the century.

All that did is cause more arguments and controversy among both Pele and Maradona fans as to who really was the greatest of the twentieth century.

Well here is my opinion as a neutral observer and as a fan of both men as superstar football players.

If you put aside the flawed character of Diego Maradona as a human being, and judge both men purely on their football prowess, I would have to lean in favour of El Diego Maradona ahead of Pele as player of the century.

Statistics alone don't tell you the full story, for the fact that Pele scored more than 1000 goals in his career, plus appeared in three World Cup victories out of four, while Diego appeared in only one (two if you count Argentina 78 as a squad member) World Cup victory out of five (including Argentina 78) doesn't necessary make Pele the winner or the best.

For starters Pele played and scored most of his goals for Santos in Brazil, where tight marking of good players back in the fifties and sixties was not as intense as it was in Maradona's era, due to the fact football was still only semi-professional back then, particularly in Brazil, due once again to television still in its infancy, thus not generating a great deal of money for the players and clubs back then. Diego did not have that luxury in the toughest league in the world, "Italy's Serie A."

Diego Maradona: The world's best.

Secondly Pele had a lot of superstar players in those Brazilian World Cup teams of the late fifties and sixties to help his brilliance and in scoring plenty of goals. Argentina's fortunes and hopes of retaining the world cup won at home in 1978 relied entirely on the shoulders of the little masters, 21 year old El Diego in Spain 1982.

It is a well known fact that had it not being for lack of discipline against tight marking for being sent off against Brazil, after kicking his opponent in the stomach, Argentina quite possibly could have gone all the way to becoming the first and only country ever to win three world cups in a row.

As for the 94 World Cup in America, who knows what could have happened if he wasn't kicked out for drug abuse, although I think he was past his prime by then for Argentina to go all the way in the USA.

Therefore as I said at the start of this letter, if you leave aside your dislike of Diego, if you leave aside your dislike of Diego as a human being because of his huge ego and flawed character, which I don't like either, you would have to say that the little man was simply the greatest football talent and player the world has ever known.

Many people may disagree with me, especially the older generation who remember when football players were also great ambassadors for their country long before the big TV money came into the game and turned a lot of them into load mouthed Prima Donna's with egos to match. But leaving aside personnel prejudice of players personalities, you would have to say that Diego was the king and Pele was the Prince of football during the twentieth century.

Dominic Scullino,
Nerang QLD.

AUSSIES AROUND THE GLOBE

STERJOVSKI HITS TWO TO SINK PSG

Australian striker Mile Sterjovski has emerged as a key figure as unheralded Lille mount a surprise challenge for the French first division title.

Following in footsteps of Australian-raised strikers like Mark Viduka, Christian Vieri, Paul Agostino and Harry Kewell, Sterjovski is making a big impact in a major European league.

He scored both goals as Lille stunned big-spending Paris St Germain 2-0 last week to move to just one point behind leaders Girondins Bordeaux.

A fiercely struck shot and a well-directed header saw Sterjovski take his goals tally to three in two matches after he also scored in Lille's 2-0 win over Sedan last weekend.

"Scoring two goals against PSG is extraordinary," Sterjovski said. "Everything that's happening to me is like a dream.

"I've worked really hard since arriving in France and that work is starting to pay off."

Sterjovski is on a one-year deal with last season's French second division champions having the option to extend the deal.

The 21-year-old Parramatta Power player had a trial with Lille in August and was promptly signed. Coach Vahid Halilhodzic said at the time that he was a good prospect, but probably not ready for the Lille first team.

After viewing Sterjovski's speed, willingness to take on defenders and sharp finishing, Halilhodzic rapidly changed his mind.

"He is just coming out of his shell," Halilhodzic said.

Mile Sterjovski: Celebrating after scoring a brace against PSG.

"He found it hard not taking part in our pre-season training and having to adjust to a new team and a new environment, but I have no doubt he'll score more goals for us.

"He has very good technique and is a good finisher. He's very adroit in front of goal and he's young — still only 21.

He'll get better."

Sterjovski said he is surprised at the speed with which he had made his mark in France.

"It is all going fast, much faster than I had expected," he said. "I only started for the first time a month ago and I can feel my confidence growing with each match.

"I was content just to start, but now I'm starting to score goals, which is amazing."

Sterjovski said scoring against Sedan – his first goal in Europe – had given him a lift.

"It was something very special," he said. "It was fantastic.

I've already scored lots of goals, of course, but this was something different."

Sterjovski grew up in the Australian steel city of Wollongong after his parents migrated to Australia from Macedonia in the 1960s.

He began playing as a junior at Sydney United and then joined Parramatta after playing for Australia in the 1999 World Youth Championships.

He was recommended to Lille by Australian national team coach Frank Farina, who played in France for both Lille and Strasbourg.

"Frank has very good memories of playing in France and now I know why," Sterjovski said. "The welcome I have been given here

has been tremendous.

"There is a great team spirit and even though I don't speak a lot of French, I understand what is being said on the field.

Soccer has its own language.

"I feel very much at home because this is a real team that works hard, particularly when the going gets tough.

"Our greatest strength isn't that we have star players. It's our cohesion and solidarity," he said.

NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE

NEWCASTLE UNITED 0
SOUTH MELBOURNE 0

By Greg Danvers

The street fighter qualities returned to the Newcastle United side last Friday night when they played a thrilling 0-0 draw with NSL competition leaders South Melbourne at Marathon Stadium.

One of the games Mr Nice Guys, until the starting whistle blows, Bob Catlin made history by becoming the league's first 'keeper to keep 100 scoreless matches. The 325 match veteran rated the clean sheet more his teammates more than his and has the match ball, signed by both sides, as a memento.

"The boys worked hard for me tonight," Catlin said at the post match media conference.

Andy Roberts: Played 39 minutes with a dislocated jaw.

"I didn't have to do much they really put in a great effort.

"I got the match ball signed by both teams and that will be mounted and put up at home."

South Melbourne coach Mike Petersen wasn't sure who was the competition leader and which side sat just one rung off the bottom of the ladder such was the quality of the fighting spirit displayed by the United outfit.

"I don't know you would have known who was on the top half or who was on the bottom half of the ladder tonight," South Melbourne coach Mike Petersen said.

"It was a great credit to Newcastle for their endeavour and commitment.

"Both teams were really at it we are happy to come away with a point as it is always a tough road trip to Newcastle."

Newcastle attacked at will for the entire 90 minutes but the play broke down in the final third of the field. The lack of confidence that the Novocastrians have been besieged with during the season was most evident on Friday night in front of 5862 vocal supporters.

Anthony Magnacca, former South Melbourne 'Rising Star' and Newcastle's latest and final signing for the season, missed timed a shot on goal in the fourth minute that ultimately signalled that the home side was going to struggle in front of the goal.

"Maybe I shouldn't have put the nets up tonight," Groundsman Neville Allan said after the match.

"They have no trouble slotting them away at training (with no nets)."

Magnacca, after settling into his stride, showed touches of class as he and his teammates strung together many enterprising attacking raids while the defensive back four worked hard to shut down a star studded South Melbourne.

The United midfield, with workaholic Mark Wilson chasing everything that moved, looked sharp and held their own something that has been lacking during past matches.

The draw came with a high price as skipper Glenn Sprod was replaced in the 51st minute and Andy Roberts played the entire match with a dislocated jaw and a broken tooth that required two hours in a dentist's chair late on Friday night.

Home-grown striker Daniel McBreen was thrust into the match for Sprod and had an impact almost straight away.

On the stroke of the hour Magnacca bent a dead ball around the wall that hit the under side of the bar and rocketed back to the corner of the area with the agile McBreen steering an overhead kick goal bound only to see 'The Lakers' shot stopper Michael Petkovic hold the ball.

Bob Catlin: 100th clean sheet.

Then a 77th minute solo effort; after dispossessing the visitors attack near his own penalty area, never giving up and winning a ball on the sideline, worked towards the area, only to be disposed on the 18 yard line.

The home side created many more chances than the visitors but the Victorians always looked like they were just waiting for the right time to pounce but hadn't counted on the gritty United effort that has returned to a side that had conceded 19 goals from nine matches.

"At halftime and a nil-all against a team like South Melbourne I thought we were very much in the game," Newcastle United coach Lee Sterrey said.

"They are a quality side with quality players all over the park.

"We had plenty of options in the first half but we were a bit gun shy when we should have had a peg.

"I was happy with the overall quality of the football that was played tonight by both sides."

MARCONI STALLIONS 0
ADELAIDE CITY 2

By Tony Tannous

On a night that was meant to celebrate the 50th clash between two of the Australia's most successful and traditional clubs, Marconi and Adelaide City turned on a drab affair at Bossley Park on Saturday, a match finally settled by a second half brace from Adelaide striker Claudio Pelosi.

Indeed, the only thing being celebrated at the end of the night was referee Brett Hugo's final whistle.

Even victorious coach Zoran Matic struggled to find a positive thing to say about the game, describing his side's effort as 'flat' and blaming the week lay-off from the postponed Carlton game for the lacklustre performance.

In the end it was the finishing proess of Italian import Pelosi, who scored in the 59th and 82nd minutes, which separated the two sides and moved Adelaide just outside the top six, level with Marconi on 13 points.

After losing its opening three games of the season, the Force has now won four of its past six, a measure not only of the qualities of Matic, but of the growing belief in his young side.

With Pelosi and captain Aurelio Vidmar back from injury, Matic now has a nice blend of experience and youth, although he will be keen to get injured youngsters Nick Sabljak and Louis Brain back.

While he remained despondent after the game, at least Matic can take heart from the fact his side kept only its second clean sheet of the season.

On the other hand, Marconi has won only one of its past eight, and after an undefeated run of three games, finds itself back at square one.

While Marconi dominated much of the possession throughout, coach Eddie Krncevic was left frustrated by an ability to create and take chances.

While Adelaide made it difficult by throwing men behind the ball and attempting to counter attack, Krncevic was blunt in his post-match assessment.

"Sure we dominated, but our final ball wasn't good enough and we lacked punch up front," he said.

After losing the likes of Francis Awaratife, Sean Babic and attacking midfielder Brad Maloney in the off-season, Krncevic has struggled to find the right combination up front, using no less than eight players up front in the opening 10 rounds.

Krncevic will be hoping the speculation about an impending return of Babic is true. Clearly the Stallions are lacking the penetration and pace of their leading scorer last season. Archie Thompson would also be a welcome addition.

Krncevic even joked after the game that he might have to put his own boots back on.

After an encouraging display from both Kris Trajanovski and Royce Brownlie a fortnight ago against the Football Kingz, the two have struggled to create chances in the two games since.

Indeed, when Trajanovski was released on the edge of his box by Care in the 13th minute, his effort was saved well by Force keeper Adrian Cagalj.

Then, five minutes into the second half, 20-year-old Brownlie, who scored his first goals against the Kingz, missed a point blank header after Cagalj had spilt a dipping Chad Gibson free kick.

Three minutes later Trajanovski had his second precious chance when he ran onto a Christian Care cross from the right, but his near post flick-on was turned away for a corner.

The missed chances proved to be the turning point, as Pelosi pounced on some excellent lead-up work from the right, just outside the box from Brad Hassell to ghost in unmarked at the far post and tap-in Adelaide's opener.

The pattern was set as Marconi pressed for an equaliser and Adelaide camped on the edge of their 18-yard box.

Any chance Marconi had of getting into the game was largely lost when their most influential player on the night, Care, was replaced with half an hour left.

Krncevic reasoned after the game that the move was necessitated by Care's asthma.

If Marconi still harboured hopes of getting something from the match, this was effectively gone with 15 minutes left when Angelo Costanzo, playing against the club he served for six years, failed to get on the end of a free header from a Gibson free kick.

Not long after Pelosi showed him how to do it at the other end, towering over the Marconi defence to head home a perfectly flighted ball from fellow Italian import Gianluca Lagati.

Marconi's Grant Last is challenged by Adelaide City Bradley Hassell during their match at Marconi Stadium.

There was only time left for Fabrizio Bucciarelli, another Italian import, to be given his marching order after twice pulling the shirts of Marconi players in the last two minutes.

NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE

PARRAMATTA POWER 2
EASTERN PRIDE 0

By Jodie Newell

Parramatta Power did the job for captain Alex Tobin, when they defeated Eastern Pride 2-0 at Carrington Oval last Saturday. Tobin was celebrating his 446 NSL appearance a new record, for most games played.

Parramatta Power's Ahmad Elrich gets ahead of an Eastern pride player whilst on his way to scoring the second in Power's 2-0 win in Bathurst.

For Eastern Pride's part it was a case of not making the best of its opportunities.

In the early part of the game, Neville Roach had a chance to score an early goal but was unable to connect.

Several minutes later Daniel Watkins found himself with room to move in the penalty area, but again was unable to finish his chance.

Parramatta on the other hand were receiving great service from Joe Miller who was creating constant supply to his co-forwards.

He was the first to post a goal when Paul Wearne made a defensive error, by failing to clear.

Miller snapped up the chance and drove the ball into the net.

Pride seemed to be playing in patches, but for the efforts of John Hutchinson and Clayton Bell they were kept in the game.

Defender Dean Fak found himself up forward and alone and nearly connected on a long Marus Stergiopouloss pass, but again could not finish the play.

Nearing the end of the first Parramatta's Ahmad Elrich was completed by a goal and the Power went into the rooms with a 2-0 lead.

Power seemed to lift another notch at the beginning of the second half and threatened to score.

Eastern Pride seemed to be flat performance wise.

Hutchinson and Bell continued their hard work in the midfield, but again the forwards were letting down their teamates.

Towards the end of the game, Joel Griffiths was brought down in the penalty area, where through sentimental reasons, Alex Tobin took the spot kick, but was unable to score after a fine save by Pride keeper Bojo Jevdjevic. The match ended at 2-0.

After the game Eastern Pride coach Jeff Hopkins maintained the same errors were costing the team victory.

"Again we made some defensive errors, and it cost us dearly. I thought we didn't capitalise on our chances and they did.We also had a number of players down on their game and that didn't help".

Parramatta Power's Alex Tobin jumps for a high ball with Eastern Pride's Paul Wearne.

On his own position as coach, Hopkins remains absolutely committed to leading the team.

"After the game I spoke to the lads about my experiences as a player, and how you have to believe in yourself, regardless what people might say about your ability. I told the lads that I'm with them all the way and will not stop at getting this team playing more attractive winning soccer".

Parramatta Power coach David Mitchell knew his side's victory wouldn't come easy. "I knew before the game that Pride were no certainties regardless of their ladder position. "Its game's like tonight where you have to win to have any chance of playing in the finals and I'm well pleased with the 3 points".

CANBERRA COSMOS 2
SYDNEY OLYMPIC 3

By Graham Cooke

It was not the way Tom Sermanni would have wanted to mark the game that made him Canberra Cosmos' longest-serving coach — left criticising his team for a series of "brain dead" errors against Sydney Olympic which lost them a contest they had, for long periods, looked set to win.

The Cosmos went down 3-2 from a point, mid-way through the second half, when they led 2-1 and appeared ready to widen the margin. It was then that Olympic team boss Branko Culina, a predecessor of Sermanni's at the Canberra club, introduced an obscure youngster called Franco Parisi into the game.

Within seven minutes Parisi had scored twice, and if there was a hint of offside in his second, it still does not excuse the fact the Cosmos defence failed to give him the respect which should be accorded any unknown quantity, at least until the measure of their ability is obtained.

Sermanni was keen to play down Parisi's introduction as the hinge on which the game swung. "When Olympic went behind they pushed three men up front and that unsettled us," he said. "We lost the rhythm and pattern of our play and we were chasing the game after that.

Franco Parisi: Two goals on debut.

"To our credit we kept them under pressure to the end, and with a little bit more luck we might have got out of jail, just as we have done in the past, but we can't keep on relying on that.

"Nor can we expect to make an impression when we continue to give away the soft goals we conceded tonight."

If there are any crumbs of comfort for Canberra in yet another home loss — their third in four games — it came in the debut of Uruguayan import Milton Cortes, finally released to play after a month of international wrangling.

Cortes showed some exquisite touches and set up fellow midfielder Naoki Imaya for two goals a minute either side of half time. On both occasions Cortes read the game perfectly, drawing defenders with a cheeky, jinking run before slipping the ball to his partner just as Imaya found room for a telling shot.

Without a competitive game in five months, the little South American faded out of the last 20 minutes, but Sermanni said such was the quality of Cortes' play that he kept him on as an out-and-out striker in the hope he might find some reserves of magic.

"It was a calculated risk...things were not happening for Jon Angelucci up front," he said.

Earlier Greg Owens had been the dominating force for Olympic, driving a shot straight into goalkeeper Angelo Konstantinou after just five minutes, then making up for that miss with a goal from a similar position, just outside the penalty area, in the 36th minute.

In the end Olympic won because they concentrated on the task in hand to a far greater degree than Canberra. Ante Juric, returning to his home town, and Peter Zorbas had outstanding games in a competent line-up which, if not inspired, kept their error rate down to acceptable levels.

BRISBANE STRIKERS 1
AUCKLAND KINGZ 1

By Glenn Davis

A huge $250,000 sponsorship deal may well have ensured Brisbane Strikers survive next year's national league restructure but their road back to this season's playoffs hit a dip when held to a 1-1 draw by Auckland's Football Kingz at Suncorp Stadium on Saturday night.

Strikers chairman Ross Melville confirmed on the night the Strikers were now in the box seat to retain their NSL place next season when the competition is culled to 12 teams after the massive sponsorship deal from the Clem Jones Group.

The Strikers' position in next year's league has been rumoured to be under serious threat and awaiting an ambush on two fronts following the Queenlsand Soccer Federation elections last week.

The QSF, which holds the licence for a Queensland team to play in the NSL, is now headed by former Brisbane Strkers chairman Tony Petty who narrowly defeated long serving President Wallace Dann at the recent QSF annual general meeting.

Dann retained his board position when elected Treasurer.

Petty and Clem Jones, Brisbane's former Lord Mayor and current Brisbane Strikers' board member and shareholder, fell out when Petty was at the Strikers' helm which eventually led to a court battle and a confidential settlement after Petty resigned.

Petty, a member of a consortium of buisnessman trying to establish a future Gold Coast national league team, has emphatically denied speculation a back-room deal had been struck to replace Brisbane Strikers with Brisbane Lions.

"I know some pretty nasty things were being spread before the vote was taken, but there was no deal done," Petty said in a weekend Brisbane report.

"There were no ulterior motives."

Lions chief executive Lawrence Oudendyk, an astute businessman and solicitor, easily won a QSF board position and will work as a QSF board member as well as retaining his job with Brisbane Lions while Gold Coast identity Des Rice also was elected to the six-man board.

Oudendyk said Brisbane Lions always intended to get back into the big time after being one of the founding NSL members in 1977 before falling financially.

Meanwhile the dip in the road back to the playoffs almost looked like an abyss for the Strikers when the Kingz took a 1-0 halftime lead through former German first division striker Wynton Rufer on the stroke of halftime.

Rufer continued the Strikers' nightmare of conceding late goals when he latched onto a Jon Perry cross to tap in from close range deep into injury time in the opening half.

The goal ripped the heart out of the Strikers players who valiantly clawed their way back into the game after the Kingz dominated the first 20 minutes.

The Strikers had to wait until the 72nd minute for their equaliser when the club's leading scorer Paul Foster struck home his fifth goal of the season.

The goal came after defender Shane Stefanutto hit a perfect cross to the far post for skipper Stu McLaren, who headed across the goal mouth to Foster - his shot hooking past Kingz keeper Chris Marsh.

The Strikers had an earlier chance in the 56th minute to equalise when a McLaren shot from inside the box was headed off the goal line by international midfielder Harry Ngata.

The Kingz started strongly and easily dominated proceedings in the first 20 minutes before the home side launched a spirited fightback before the horror of conceding late goals returned.

Brazilian striker Fernando Rech stamped his mark on the game particularly in the first half with several scoring opportunities.

Brisbane's Shane Smeltz goes for a header against the Kingz's Ivan Vicelich during their 1-1 draw in Brisbane.

Strikers midfielder Wayne Srhoj put Rech away into the penalty box in one attempt where the Brazilian showed the small crowd just what a lethal left foot shot he possessed.

Rech's 16th minute attempt was struck like a missile onto post.

The Brazilian had another chance six minutes later when a header from the penalty spot sailed marginally over the crossbar.

NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE

WOLLONGONG WOLVES 2
SYDNEY UNITED 0

By Otto Bader

On Saturday night at WIN Stadium only 3,339 turned up to watch the Wollongong Wolves defeat the hapless Sydney United 2-0. In a gutsy display of tight marking, the Wolves brought home the points against a plucky, doggedly defending Sydney United.

Wolves Coach Ron Corry said his boys knocked the ball around well even though some passes went astray, they opened up more in the second half following a scoreless first 45.

United Coach Alan Hunter while disappointed, did say he was pleased with the commitment shown, his only critic was that two goals resulted from poor defensive errors.

His players knew what expect in Wollongong against the champions and did do as he ask them, plenty of players behind the ball to defend. In the end the Wolves were too consistent and eventually broke down the resolute defence.

The Wolves had David Cervinski out injured (the toughest stopper in the NSL never to be selected for the National team) while Sydney United missed veteran striker Francis Awaritefe, who was suspended.

Saso Petrovski: Scored the opener against United.

The first half only produced two corners for the home team, none for United. The match was competitive, however too many loose passes saw both sides giving the ball away on a regular basis.

Plenty of free kicks indicated the rough tackling. The only real great opening for goal came in the 15th minute with Wolves defender Alvin Ceccoli played into space by a fine splitting pass and had only the Sydney keeper to beat but somehow squandered the chance.

A couple of half chances fell either way but nothing to trouble the goalkeepers.

Captain Matt Horsley was played free by Stuart Young but could not finish on target.

United came close with Zlatko Arambasic while for the Wolves Dino Mennillo blasted a shot over the crossbar and Alvin Ceccoli was off target with a free kick.

One minute from half time the second corner of the match brought plenty of action in the United goalmouth with the keeper doing well to smother the ball.

The Wolves keeper had to handle a couple of shaky situations but escaped without fishing the ball out of the net.

The second half was just four minutes old when the third corner for the Wolves saw an in-swinging ball headed into the net by striker Saso Petrovski for a well deserved 1-0 lead.

From there on the Wolves pressed for more goals.

United had the ball in the net in the 62nd minute but the equaliser was disallowed by the alert linesman.

The United keeper was tested by several more shots but could not stop the second goal from Alvin Ceccoli with a powerful drive inside the goal area following another corner in the last 10 minutes of the game.

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS 1
NORTHERN SPIRIT 1

By Bert van Bedaf

The Melbourne Knights, coming from behind, climbed to seventh-place and the Northern Spirit maintained their presence in the top six after the teams fought out a 1-1 draw at Somers St last Sunday.

Neither team convinced nor was there a marked difference in performances, reflected in the fact that the teams share the same number of points and they are separated by goal difference only.

Heat and a strong wind made good play difficult, but a livelier second half lifted the overall impression.

"We came here to win the game. We've only had one loss in nine games and drawn the last three. Another draw was disappointing. Our first half was very ordinary and we had trouble playing into the strong wind," Spirit player-coach Graham Arnold said.

"We started well in the second half and scored a goal. But we were lucky to survive the last 15 minutes. They (Knights) came at us like the Charge of the Light Brigade," he said.

"In the first half we made a couple of chances, but straight into the second half they (Spirit) scored a goal," Knights coach Vlado Vanis said.

"Another goal and it would have killed the game for us. But we scored (an equaliser). Andy Vargas could have won the game for us (a last minute chance powered over the bar), but that did not happen and at the end of the day a draw was a fair result," he said.

Arnold said there had been a few players who'd looked below par. "We had three or four profile players that were totally off," he said.

On the other hand, Vanis missed Angolan import Toto Da Costa, who had to withdraw with a virus before the start of the match on doctor's advice. "We desperately needed him," Vanis said.

The Knights created chances early in the first half, but they let them go begging. Andy Vargas set up the first move from midfield after 15 minutes.

Joel Porter on the left crossed into the box and Adrian Cervinski accepted the ball on the run, heading within a hair's breath of the near post.

Six minutes later Dragi Nastevski tipped the ball over the bar at the far post from a Joey Rahjer cross, while Craig Foster saved a Cervinski flick-on off the line in the 24th minute.

The Northerners never got into the spirit in the oppressive Melbourne heat, something they also endured during their 1-1 draw with Carlton in round 8, the last time they'd ventured south.

Without much fire in either side, both teams remained goal-less at the interval, but it was not for long.

Young Irishman Ben Burgess successfully held off his marker Sasho Ognenovski to make his run on goal from 35 metres and slot home the opening goal past Knights 'keeper Lou Acevski in the 48th minute.

The Knights were inches away from an equaliser in the 55th minute, when Nastevski crossed from the right and Porter dived but failed to connect and produce a header from close range.

But the former Adelaide player was emphatic with his equaliser in the 65th minute. Rahjer supplied the cross to Cervinski who should have scored from his one-on-one with Paul Henderson.

But the Spirit 'keeper parried the ball, which was not cleared, and Porter blasted it high into the net to level on the rebound.

Burgess must have thought he'd given his side the lead again with a powerful header from a Craig Foster corner in the 72nd minute but Acevski blocked brilliantly with a reflex save.

Andy Vargas dropped a sitter in stoppage time, blasting the ball high over the net, failing to give the Knights victory, which would have put them into the top six.

Melbourne Knights midfielder Alex Kiratzoglou gets past Spirit's Matthew Langdon during their 1-1 draw at Knights Stadium.

ABSW Player of the Year Points

ROUND TEN

WOLLONGONG V SYDNEY UNITED
3 - Mennillo (WW)
2 - Reid (WW)
1 - Genc (SU)

MARCONI V ADELAIDE CITY
3 - Care (MS)
2 - Hassell (AC)
1 - Pelosi (AC)

CANBERRA V SYDNEY OLYMPIC
3 - Juric (SO)
2 - Zorbas (SO)
1 - Cortes (CC)

BRISBANE V FOOTBALL KINGZ
3 - Rech (BS)
2 - Marsh (FK)
1 - Srhoj (BS)

NEWCASTLE V SOUTH MELBOURNE
3 - Dodd (NU)
2 - Wilson (NU)
1 - Magnacca (NU)

PARRAMATTA V EASTERN PRIDE
3 - Elrich (PP)
2 - Bell (EP)
1 - Orlic (PP)

MELBOURNE V NORTHERN SPIRIT
3 - Burgess (NS)
2 - Enes (NS)
1 - Cervinski (MK)

CARLTON V PERTH GLORY
(Postponed)

As of this week, the Progressive player points for the 2000/2001 ABSW Player of the Year award will be hidden with the winner to be released at season's end.

SOCCER WOMAN

BY JANENE MAR

WNSL GRAND FINAL

STING WIN CROWN IN THRILLER

QUEENSLAND STING 1
(Traci Bartlett 56m)

NSW SAPPHIRES 0

at St George Stadium, Sydney

Crowd: 2,665

Queensland Sting maintained their perfect win record for the season in Saturday night's WNSL grandfinal in Brisbane, their narrow 1-0 victory over NSW Sapphires earning them the coveted national league title.

The national league crown is Queensland's second, having won the inaugural title in season 1996/97.

The Sting produced the goods in front of a record WNSL crowd of 2,665 over traditional rivals NSW in a thrilling clash with plenty of goalmouth action at each end. The grandfinal featured after the Brisbane Strikers' NSL fixture.

After comfortably defeating the Sapphires 3-1 in their last encounter and entering the decider as favourites, Queensland were made to fight hard this time by a spirited NSW outfit.

After numerous good opportunities from both teams, the excitement grew in the last ten minutes before the break with several spectacular close attempts. Sting's midfield duo Bryony Duus and Kim Revell showed their class, each with a telling pass to split the NSW defence, Alexis Tramacchi first set up for a one-on-one with keeper Cass Kell who made two top quickfire saves.

April Mann was released with Revell's through ball, her strike from wide on the left hitting the crossbar.

Traci Bartlett: Scored the match winner in the 1-0 win.

Meanwhile, Sapphires' Emma Davison's attempt from 20 metres crashed against the crossbar and bounced down near the line before the keeper smothered it.

The home fans erupted when the Sting broke the deadlock eleven minutes into the second half in stunning fashion. Defender Traci Bartlett controlled the ball 25 metres out before unleashing an unstoppable dipping volley.

Sting goalkeeper Claire Nichols was outstanding in repelling the NSW attack in search of the qualiser, the visitors creating top chances but unable to break through. Queensland's Mann then struck from wide on the left only to see the ball once more hit the woodwork.

The match ended in dramatic circumstances with a quality chance to NSW well into stoppage time to level the scores. Midfielder Taryn Rockall broke through on goal in a one-on-one situation and got past the keeper, but was taken down and denied the opportunity to get in the shot. Solid claims of a penalty were dismissed, and soon after Queensland Sting celebrated the big win.

Sting: Nichols, Nolan, Bartlett, mcShea, Tramacchi (Mitchell 82), Duus, Revell (c), Harch, Maza (Dunne 65), Ferguson, Mann.

Sapphires: Kell, Tann-Darby (c), Warrener, Kristine Collins, Slatyer (Golebiowski 58), L Collins, Rockall, Klessattel, Davison, Carney, McLaughlin (Cannuli 68).

ROCKALL CLAIMS TOP HONOURS

NSW Sapphires' midfielder Taryn Rockall claimed a double crown at Sunday's Julie Dolan Medal Presentation in Brisbane, taking out both the major award and that of highest goalscorer for her feats in this season's WNSL.

Rockall, player and vice-captain of the side which went down narrowly in Saturdayís grandfinal against Queensland Sting, was presented the Julie Dolan medal which is awarded to the National League player of the year.

The 23-year-old Sydneysider won by the closest of margins over the short season, polled 22 points to edge out Queensland Sting's Olympian Bryony Duus by one point, and Sting's Kim Revell (19 points).

Commanding in the centre of the park, Rockall is renowned for her ease on the ball, vision and distribution in launching attacking opportunities.

Rockall's form has caught the attention of Interim National Coach Adrian Santrac, and accepted her awards hopeful of making the final cut for the team later that day.

Rockall represented Australia in 1997 as an Under 21 international, was a member of the National Train-On Squad in 1997-98, and has since spent some time playing in England.

Earlier in the afternoon, Rockall was also rewarded for her scoring prowess, on the scoresheet six times over the five round-robin matches from her position in the middle of the park. her half-dozen goals were two clear of both Jessica Halfpenny and April Mann with four apiece.

Victoria Vision's Selin Kuralay was named WNSL Rising Star, awarded to the highest polling player who made their starting debut this season. Kuralay finished a most creditable 6th in the Julie Dolan medal points, and is the first Victorian to receive a national league award.

The spirited 15-year-old striker loves to take on opposition defenders, possesses a fierce strike on goal, and has that ability to create excitement when in possession of the ball.

Taryn Rockall: Player of the series and top goalscorer.

She has already worn the green and gold, having competed in the Adidas Cup in the US with the Australian U17 team earlier this year.

Olympic vice-captain Cheryl Salisbury was recipient of the International Player of the Year award for 2000, obviously a big year for the Matildas. The ball-playing central defender in a Matildas' team which builds from the back, Salisbury is composed and graceful on the ball and cool under pressure with a good football brain.

Despite moving to defence from her more common position in midfield, Salisbury retains the mantle of Australia's highest international goalscorer alongside Sunni Hughes, who most recently scored stunning diving header against Sweden in the Olympics.

HONOUR ROLL

Julie Dolan Medal (WNSL Player of the Year)	Taryn Rockall	NSW Sapphires
WNSL Highest Goalscorer	Taryn Rockall	NSW Sapphires
WNSL Rising Star	Selin Kuralay	Victoria Vision
International Player of the Year	Cheryl Salisbury	

THREE NEW MATILDAS ANNOUNCED

Three players celebrate Christmas early with their debut Matildas selection as Interim National coach Adrian Santrac yesterday (Monday) finalised his Australian team to contest the upcoming Australia Cup test series against France.

The three new faces are joined by three former internationals making a return to the top level after a year or more's absence from the green and gold. The 18-member team, cut from the initial Interim Squad of 24 players, is certainly a new-look combination. Just eleven of the Olympic team have been named in this team, with only one of the Sydney 2000 players, goalkeeper Tracey Wheeler, having retired.d everyone by leaving the AIS program a year ago, so close to the Olympics.

	Position	Age	State	Hometown	Caps
D. Alagich	D	21	SA	Adelaide	24
T. Bartlett	D	28	QLD	Sydney	45
S. Black	M	29	Oseas/SA	Adelaide	52
S. Cooper	M	31	Oseas/ACT	Darwin	52
B. Duus	M	23	QLD	Brisbane	28
A. Ferguson	F	19	QLD	Brisbane	31
A. Forman	M	31	Oseas	Newcastle	68
A. Mann	F	22	QLD	Brisbane	6
J. McLaughlin	F	16	NSW	Sydney	6
K. McShea	D	17	QLD	Brisbane	12
J. Murray	F	30	Oseas/NSW	Canberra	67
C. Nichols	GK	25	QLD	Brisbane	10
K. Revell	M	25	QLD	Brisbane	28
T. Rockall	M	23	NSW	Sydney	6
C.Salisbury	D	26	NNSW	Newcastle	68
A. Tann-Darby	D	33	NSW	Sydney	88
L. Trimboli	GK	25	SA	Adelaide	3
S. Wainwright	D	28	ACT	Canberra	32

FRANCE HERE FOR AUSTRALIA CUP

The 3rd Australia Cup featuring The Matildas and emerging world power France will bring top international women's soccer to the regional centres of Coffs Harbour, Lismore, and the Gold Coast next month.

The regions are each considered significant soccer strongholds, with women's soccer in particular showing exciting trends of growth. Recent history has also shown time and against that regional centres bring a special atmosphere and community-wide support to such an event, the Matildas having played in Bathurst, Lismore, Newcastle and Canberra over the last four years.

The Australia Cup, a three-test series against France, marks the Australian Team's first internationals of the new four-year period, coming off its Sydney 2000 Olympic Games campaign. The Matildas narrowly missed a semi-finals berth, and the 7th place finish was our best ever performance at a world event, and achieved at our first Olympics.

The Matildas face a very tough opponent in France, considered the latest big mover on the world scene. The French are in serious preparation for the 2001 UEFA European Championship Finals tournament, having qualified undefeated in winning Group One, three points ahead of Olympic 2000 nation Sweden. France have never previously qualified for a World Cup or Olympics, but are now well on track to achieving that feat.

The two nations have never previously met in international play.

The Matildas will base their training camp in Coffs Harbour from January three for the matches which commence a week later.

Match Schedule: 3rd Australia Cup: Australia v France

Thur 11 January	7.00pm	Coffs Harbour International Stadium
Sun 14 January	6.00pm	Oakes Oval, Lismore
Wed 17 January	7.00pm	Carrara Sporting Complex, Gold Coast

NSW Premier League

ROUND 7

CONTROVERSY SPOILS NINE GOAL SPECTACLE

Leichhardt Tigers	3
Parramatta Eagles	6

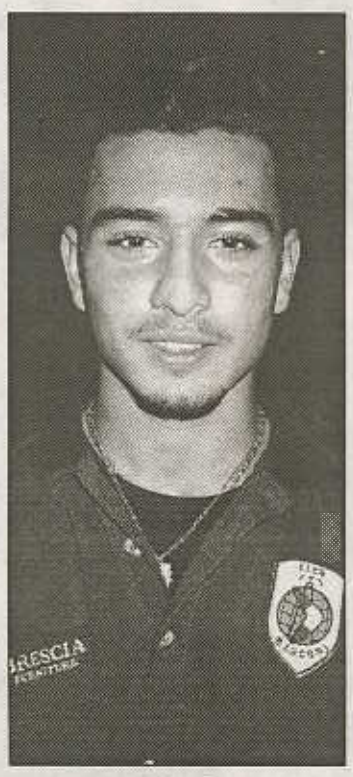
By Paul Goodwin

It was a night of surprises and sensations in the NSW summer competition last Saturday with four sent off in one game which also provided spectators with a nine goal bonanza.

Leichhardt Tigers' supporters were on good terms with themselves when James Stubbs-Mills gave his side a 19th minute lead against Parramatta Eagles at Lambert Park, with a fierce shot, but it all began to go wrong just four minutes later when the same player handled on his own goal line and was sent off, conceding a penalty which was converted with ease by Nicky Joseski.

Ben Delicata's shot in the 37th was helped into his own net by Richard Luksic to have the Eagles in front and then Joseksi made it 3-1 five minutes later, with Danial Cummins adding a fourth within another minute.

Sal La Rocca brought the Tigers back to 4-2 with a penalty in the 64th, but the sending off of Michael Galluzo of Leichhardt and Cummins of Parramatta in the 78th saw Parramatta step up another gear.



Michael Galluzo: One of four to be sent off.

Delicata added a fifth, though Joseski missed a second penalty before Matt Borg made it 3-5. Tigers' keeper Con Anastasiadis was sent off in the last minute for a bad challenge outside the box and with Borg taking over between the sticks, Adam Anderson was able to make it six with a simple tap-in.

Both sides missed numerous chances in an excitement-filled game which boiled over once or twice, but saw some even uglier scenes at its conclusion as players and officials jostled on leaving the field.

Parramatta had at the end of it bounced back after their 5-0 drubbing at Bonnyrigg during the week to put one foot on the step of the top four.

Leichhardt Tigers: Anastasiadis, Luksic, Galluzzo, Bruni, Stubbs-Mills, Karavatakis, La Rocca, Nicol, Adioski (Borg 54m), Tesoro (Tomasevic 50m), Lal (Fuchs 53m)

Parramatta: Holmes, M Meilak, Reveley, O'Shea, Anderson, Mittiga, Joseski (Borg 70m), Islas, (Bazdaric 67m), Delicata, Cummins, Conde (Trpkoski 83m).

WRAP UP

BONNYRIGG 1 SUTHERLAND 1

Bonnyrigg missed the chance to put further pressure on leaders Blacktown when held to a 1-1 draw at the Serbian Centre by Sutherland Sharks.

Alen Stajcic, with a goal against his old club, for Sutherland and Javier Mancino, for the White Eagles, were the scorers, with both goals coming in the first half.

C'BURY M'VILLE 0 BELCONNEN 2

Belconnen defeated Canterbury-Marrickville 2-0 at Henson Park to reclaim some lost ground and Steve Lozzari was again on target, with Leo Langone adding the second for a solid win by the ACT based side.

PENRITH 0 ST GEORGE 4

St George continued their improved form with a convincing 4-0 win at Penrith's Andrews Road Field.

Two goals in each half for the Saints for whom Nick Polimenakos, Simon Verrender, Billy Petrovski and Leo Alexiou were the scorers against a disappointing Panthers outfit.

BLACKTOWN 2 CENTRAL COAST 0

Blacktown City extended their unbeaten run to 26 games with a 2-0 win against Central Coast at Gabbie Stadium.

The Demons were rewarded for their patience with both goals coming in the last 20 minutes.

A big clearance by goalkeeper John Crawley saw Darren Iocca and makeshift striker Jason Connolly bearing down on Darren Moore's goal in the 71st minute.

Iocca used some very clever footwork to deliver the ball in behind the last defender and in the path of Connolly who finished like a seasoned marksman.

In the 85th minute, Blacktown doubled their lead when a Mark Racker cross from the left was nodded in at the far post by Paul Dee.

This game was a home game for Central Coast who were forced to move from North Power Stadium due to pitch refurbishment.

• RESULTS •

Bonnyrigg 1 (Mancino 6m) **Sutherland 1** (Stajcic 28m)

Leichhardt Tigers 3 (Stubbs-Mills 19m, La Rocca 64m Pen, Borg 85m) **Parramatta Eagles 6** (Joseski 24m Pen & 42m, Delicata 38m & 82m, Cummins 43m, Anderson 90m)

Canterbury-Marrickville 0 Belconnen 2 (Lazzari 20m, Langone 60m)

Penrith 0 St George 4 (Polimenakos 6m, Verrender 30m, Petrovski 75m, Alexiou 85m)

Central Coast 0 Blacktown City 2 (Connolly 71m, Dee 85m)

• TOP SCORERS •

AFTER ROUND 7

Player	Club	Goals
Steve Lazzari	Belconnen	10
Darren Iocca	Blacktown City	8
Javier Mancino	Bonnyrigg	6
Niko Joseski	Parramatta Eagles	4
Colin Luff	Bonnyrigg	4

NSW PREMIER LEAGUE LADDER

(AFTER ROUND 7)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Blacktown City	7	6	1	0	15	4	19
Bonnyrigg	6	4	1	1	19	7	13
Belconnen	7	4	0	3	15	10	12
St George	6	3	1	2	11	11	10
Parramatta	6	3	1	2	12	13	10
Central Coast	7	3	0	4	8	8	9
Leichhardt	6	2	1	3	10	11	7
C'bury M'ville	5	2	0	3	3	7	6
Sutherland	7	0	3	4	6	15	3
Penrith	7	0	2	5	5	18	2

For further information see: www.nswpremierleague.com

NSW Premier League

www.nswpremierleague.com

SATURDAY 6 JANUARY

St George v Central Coast — ST GEORGE STADIUM
Blacktown City v Bonnyrigg — GABBIE STADIUM
Sutherland v C'bury M'ville — SEYMOUR SHAW
Penrith v Parramatta Eagles — ANDREW ROAD FIELD
Under 19s: 5.00pm — First Grade: 7.00pm
Belconnen Blue v Leichhardt — WEST BELCONNEN SG
Under 19s: 4.30pm — First Grade: 6.30pm

Rescheduled Fixtures

WEDNESDAY 20 DECEMBER

St George Saints v Parramatta — ST GEORGE STADIUM
Under 19s: 6.00pm — First Grade: 8.00pm

SATURDAY 23 DECEMBER

Bonnyrigg WE v Cant-M'ville — SERBIAN CENTRE
Under 19s: 5.00pm — First Grade: 7.00pm

FRIDAY 29 DECEMBER

Cant-M'ville v Leichhardt Tigers — HENSON PARK
Under 19s: 6.00pm — First Grade: 8.00pm

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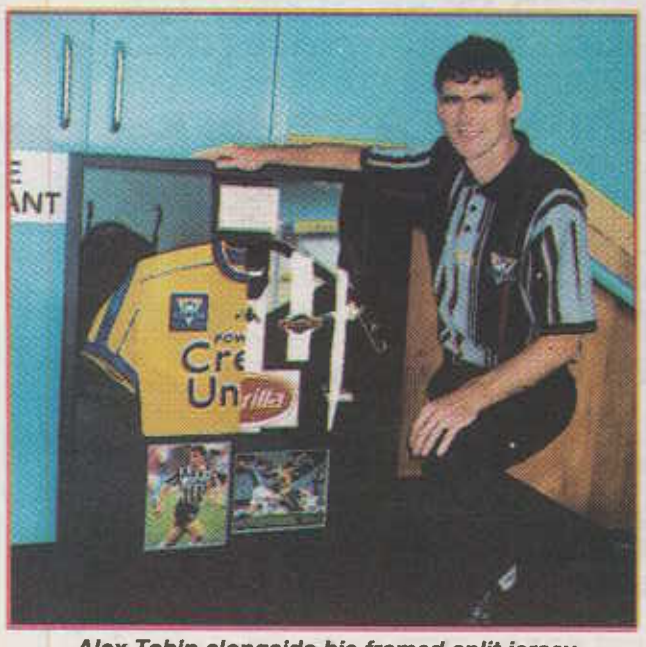
TERRIFIC TOBINS' I

Alex Tobin (centre) stands tall above his Adelaide teammates following City's loss in the 1992 NSL Cup.

Parramatta Power coach David Mitchell (left) with Alex To (Power's captain) and previous record holder Sergio Melta (former Adelaide City).

Never afraid to spill some blood for his country, this against New Zealand in January 1997.

Tobin played 17 seasons with Adelaide City, this photo taken against Perth Glory.



Alex Tobin alongside his framed split jersey (Parramatta Power and Adelaide City) presented to the veteran at a press conference to commemorate his record achievement.

A happy Alex Tobin holds aloft the Optus World Socer Series trophy after Australia secured the tournament with a win over Norway at the Sydney Football Stadium on January 25, 1997.

A young Alex Tobin during his first training session wit Adelaide City at Olympic Sports Field on April 20 1984. INSET: Alex Tobin jumps up for a header during the Adela City versus Brunswick Juventus match in 1986.

MAGIC MILESTONE

NSL MATCHES PLAYED

NO.	DATE	OPPONENT	RESULT
ADELAIDE CITY 1984 SEASON			
1.	13.05.84	South Melbourne	Lost 0-1
2.	24.06.84	Brisbane City	Lost 1-2
3.	01.07.84	Adelaide Sharks	Won 1-0
4.	15.07.84	Sunshine	Drew 1-1
5.	22.07.84	Preston	Won 2-1
6.	29.07.84	Sydney United	Drew 3-3
7.	05.08.84	Heidelberg	Lost 0-1
8.	12.08.84	Adelaide Sharks	Won 3-2
9.	19.08.84	Brunswick	Lost 0-1
10.	26.08.84	Green Gully	Won 3-1
11.	02.09.84	Preston	Lost 0-2
12.	08.09.84	Newcastle Rosebud	Lost 0-2
13.	16.09.84	South Melbourne	Lost 2-3
14.	23.09.84	Footscray	Drew 0-0
15.	30.09.84	Adelaide Sharks	Won 3-0
16.	07.10.84	Brisbane City	Won 2-1
ADELAIDE CITY 1985 SEASON			
17.	19.05.85	Heidelberg	Lost 0-1
18.	26.05.85	Melbourne Knights	Won 3-0
19.	02.06.85	Brisbane City	Lost 1-2
20.	09.06.85	Adelaide Sharks	Won 4-1
21.	15.06.85	Green Gully	Won 3-2
22.	23.06.85	Preston	Lost 1-2
23.	30.06.85	South Melbourne	Lost 1-2
24.	07.07.85	Brunswick	Won 2-1
25.	14.07.85	Brisbane Lions	Lost 0-3
26.	21.07.85	Footscray	Lost 0-1
27.	28.07.85	Sunshine	Drew 1-1
28.	18.08.85	Heidelberg	Drew 0-0
ADELAIDE CITY 1986 SEASON			
29.	30.03.86	Heidelberg	Drew 2-2
30.	06.04.86	Footscray	Won 7-1
31.	13.04.86	Brisbane Lions	Won 2-0
32.	20.04.86	Preston	Lost 0-3
33.	18.05.86	Sunshine	Drew 0-0
34.	25.05.86	Brisbane City	Drew 2-2
35.	08.06.86	Adelaide Sharks	Won 3-1
36.	15.06.86	Green Gully	Won 1-0
37.	22.06.86	Brunswick	Drew 0-0
38.	29.06.86	Footscray	Lost 0-1
39.	06.07.86	Brisbane Lions	Won 3-1
40.	13.07.86	Preston	Won 2-0
41.	20.07.86	South Melbourne	Drew 1-1
42.	27.07.86	Melbourne Knights	Lost 0-2
43.	10.08.86	Sunshine	Lost 0-2
44.	17.08.86	Brisbane City	Won 2-0
45.	24.08.86	Adelaide Sharks	Lost 1-2
46.	31.08.86	Green Gully	Won 3-1
47.	07.09.86	Brunswick	Drew 0-0
Finals series:			
48.	14.09.86	Heidelberg	Won 2-0
49.	21.09.86	Footscray	Won 3-2
50.	28.09.86	Brunswick	Won 2-0
51.	05.10.86	Footscray	Won 2-1
52.	12.10.86	Sydney Olympic	Lost 0-1*
53.	19.10.86	Sydney Olympic	Won 3-1*
ADELAIDE CITY 1987 SEASON			
54.	29.03.87	Heidelberg	Won 4-1
55.	05.04.87	Leichhardt	Drew 2-2
56.	12.04.87	Marconi Stallions	Lost 1-2
57.	19.04.87	Melbourne Knights	Won 3-0
58.	26.04.87	Sydney Olympic	Drew 2-2
59.	03.05.87	Sunshine	Drew 0-0
60.	10.05.87	Preston	Drew 0-0
61.	17.05.87	South Melbourne	Lost 0-1
62.	31.05.87	Sydney United	Won 3-2
63.	28.06.87	Brunswick	Won 4-0
64.	05.07.87^	St George	Lost 0-1
65.	12.07.87	Footscray	Drew 0-0
66.	19.07.87	Heidelberg	Drew 1-1
67.	26.07.87	Leichhardt	Lost 0-1
68.	02.08.87	Marconi Stallions	Drew 1-1
69.	09.08.87	Melbourne Knights	Won 3-0
70.	16.08.87	Sydney Olympic	Lost 0-1
71.	23.08.87	Sunshine	Drew 1-1
72.	30.08.87	Preston	Lost 1-2
73.	06.09.87	South Melbourne	Lost 0-2
74.	20.09.87	Sydney United	Drew 0-0
75.	27.09.87	Brunswick	Won 1-0
76.	04.10.87	St George	Lost 0-1
77.	11.10.87	Footscray	Drew 2-2
ADELAIDE CITY 1988 SEASON			
78.	31.01.88	Brunswick	Drew 0-0
79.	07.02.88	St George	Lost 0-6
80.	13.02.88	Wollongong Wolves	Lost 2-3
81.	21.02.88	Preston	Drew 0-0
82.	28.02.88	Sydney United	Lost 0-1
83.	04.04.88	Sydney Olympic	Won 1-0
84.	10.04.88	Sunshine	Drew 0-0
85.	17.04.88	Leichhardt	Drew 1-1
86.	24.04.88	Brisbane Lions	Won 5-1
87.	01.05.88	Brunswick	Won 3-0
88.	08.05.88	South Melbourne	Lost 1-2
89.	15.05.88	St George	Won 2-1
90.	22.05.88	Wollongong Wolves	Lost 1-2
91.	29.05.88	Preston	Drew 1-1
92.	05.06.88	Sydney United	Lost 2-3
93.	12.06.88	Melbourne Knights	Lost 1-4
94.	19.06.88	Footscray	Won 3-2
95.	26.06.88	Marconi Stallions	Lost 1-2
96.	03.07.88	Sydney Olympic	Won 1-0
97.	07.08.88	South Melbourne	Won 1-0
ADELAIDE CITY 1989 SEASON			
98.	21.01.89	Blacktown City	Lost 1-2
99.	05.02.89	Preston	Lost 1-2
100.	11.02.89	Sunshine	Won 2-0
101.	19.02.89	South Melbourne	Drew 2-2
102.	25.02.89	Marconi Stallions	Lost 2-3
103.	05.03.89	Wollongong Wolves	Won 1-0
104.	19.03.89	Melbourne Knights	Drew 0-0
105.	26.03.89	Footscray	Won 1-0
106.	07.04.89	Leichhardt	Drew 1-1
107.	30.04.89	Sunshine	Won 2-0
108.	06.05.89	Preston	Won 1-0
109.	14.05.89	Sydney United	Drew 0-0
110.	21.05.89	South Melbourne	Won 1-0
111.	28.05.89	Marconi Stallions	Won 4-1
112.	04.06.89	Wollongong Wolves	Drew 1-1
113.	18.06.89	Melbourne Knights	Won 1-0
114.	02.07.89	Heidelberg	Won 2-1
115.	07.07.89	Sydney Olympic	Lost 0-1
116.	09.07.89	Leichhardt	Won 2-0
117.	12.07.89	Footscray	Drew 1-1
118.	16.07.89	Blacktown City	Lost 2-3
ADELAIDE CITY 1989-90 SEASON			
119.	04.11.89	Wollongong Wolves	Won 2-0
120.	10.11.89	Parramatta Eagles	Drew 1-1
121.	19.11.89	South Melbourne	Lost 0-1
122.	26.11.89	Sydney United	Won 3-1
123.	02.12.89	Sunshine	Won 1-0
124.	10.12.89	St George	Drew 1-1
125.	17.12.89	Leichhardt	Lost 1-2
126.	26.12.89	Preston	Lost 0-3
127.	30.12.89	Sydney Olympic	Won 1-0
128.	05.01.90	Blacktown City	Won 2-1
129.	14.01.90	Marconi Stallions	Drew 1-1
130.	24.01.90	Adelaide Sharks	Won 2-0
131.	28.01.90	Wollongong Wolves	Won 3-0
132.	11.02.90	South Melbourne	Won 3-0
133.	18.02.90	Sydney United	Drew 1-1
134.	25.02.90	Sunshine	Won 4-1
135.	28.02.90	Parramatta Eagles	Lost 1-2
136.	04.03.90	St George	Drew 1-1
137.	11.03.90	Leichhardt	Drew 0-0
138.	18.03.90	Preston	Won 2-1
139.	24.03.90	Sydney Olympic	Won 1-0
140.	01.04.90	Blacktown City	Won 3-0
141.	08.04.90	Marconi Stallions	Lost 1-3
142.	15.04.90	Melbourne Knights	Drew 0-0
143.	22.04.90	Adelaide Sharks	Won 1-0
Finals series:			
144.	29.04.90	Sydney Olympic	Lost 1-2
ADELAIDE CITY 1990-91 SEASON			
145.	07.10.90	Sydney Olympic	Lost 1-2
146.	14.10.90	Wollongong Mac.	Drew 2-2
147.	21.10.90	South Melbourne	Lost 1-3
148.	31.10.90	Sydney United	Drew 1-1
149.	04.11.90	Sunshine	Drew 1-1
150.	11.11.90	Leichhardt	Won 2-1
151.	18.11.90	Preston	Drew 0-0
152.	25.11.90	Wollongong Wolves	Won 2-0
153.	03.12.90	St George	Won 1-0
154.	09.12.90	Heidelberg	Drew 0-0
155.	16.12.90	Marconi Stallions	Won 1-0
156.	30.12.90	Parramatta Eagles	Drew 1-1
157.	06.01.91	Sydney Olympic	Lost 0-1
158.	13.01.91	Wollongong Mac.	Drew 1-1
159.	20.01.91	South Melbourne	Won 4-1
160.	27.01.91	Sydney United	Won 1-0
161.	03.02.91	Sunshine	Won 2-0
162.	10.02.91	Leichhardt	Won 2-0
163.	17.02.91	Preston	Drew 1-1
164.	24.02.91	Wollongong Wolves	Drew 1-1
165.	03.03.91	St George	Won 2-0
166.	10.03.91	Heidelberg	Won 3-1
167.	16.03.91	Marconi Stallions	Won 3-1
168.	31.03.91	Melbourne Knights	Won 6-0
Finals series:			
169.	14.04.91	South Melbourne	Lost 2-4
170.	21.04.91	Marconi Stallions	Won 1-0
171.	28.04.91	South Melbourne	Lost 0-1
ADELAIDE CITY 1991-92 SEASON			
172.	06.10.91	Newcastle Breakers	Won 2-0^
173.	13.10.91	Leichhardt	Drew 0-0
174.	20.10.91	Parramatta Eagles	Won 2-1
175.	27.10.91	Adelaide Sharks	Won 4-1
176.	03.11.91	Marconi Stallions	Won 2-1
177.	10.11.91	Heidelberg	Drew 2-2
178.	17.11.91	Melbourne Knights	Won 2-0
179.	23.11.91	Brisbane Strikers	Drew 1-1
180.	01.12.91	Sydney Olympic	Won 2-0
181.	08.12.91	Wollongong Wolves	Drew 0-0
182.	18.12.91	Sydney United	Drew 1-1
183.	22.12.91	South Melbourne	Won 1-0
184.	26.12.91	Preston	Lost 0-1
185.	29.12.91	Newcastle Breakers	Drew 1-1
186.	01.01.92	Leichhardt	Drew 1-1
187.	05.01.92	Parramatta Eagles	Drew 1-1
188.	12.01.92	Adelaide Sharks	Lost 0-1
189.	18.01.92	Marconi Stallions	Lost 0-2
190.	09.02.92	Heidelberg	Drew 0-0
191.	16.02.92	Melbourne Knights	Lost 0-4
192.	23.02.92	Brisbane Strikers	Won 1-0
193.	01.03.92	Sydney Olympic	Lost 0-1
194.	08.03.92	Wollongong Wolves	Won 1-0
195.	15.03.92	Sydney United	Won 2-1
196.	22.03.92	South Melbourne	Lost 0-2
197.	29.03.92	Preston	Lost 0-1
Finals series:			
198.	12.04.92	Wollongong Wolves	Won 1-0
199.	19.04.92	Sydney Olympic	Won 2-1
200.	26.04.92	South Melbourne	Won 2-0
201.	03.05.92	Melbourne Knights	Drew 0-0 (PW)
ADELAIDE CITY 1992-93 SEASON			
202.	04.10.92	Melbourne Knights	Won 2-1
203.	11.10.92	Heidelberg	Lost 0-1
204.	18.10.92	Brisbane Strikers	Won 1-0
205.	25.10.92	Sydney Olympic	Drew 1-1
206.	01.11.92	Wollongong Wolves	Drew 0-0
207.	08.11.92	Adelaide Sharks	Won 1-0
208.	15.11.92	Sydney United	Lost 0-1
209.	22.11.92	South Melbourne	Lost 1-2
210.	29.11.92	Preston	Won 2-1
211.	06.12.92	Newcastle Breakers	Won 2-1
212.	12.12.92	Eastern Pride	Drew 1-1
213.	27.12.92	Marconi Stallions	Lost 3-4^
214.	03.01.93	Heidelberg	Drew 1-1
215.	10.01.93	Melbourne Knights	Won 1-0
216.	16.01.93	Brisbane Strikers	Lost 2-4
217.	24.01.93	Sydney Olympic	Won 1-0
218.	26.01.93	Wollongong Wolves	Lost 0-2
219.	01.02.93	Adelaide Sharks	Won 1-0^
220.	07.02.93	Sydney United	Won 2-0
221.	21.02.93	Preston	Lost 1-3
222.	28.02.93	Newcastle Breakers	Won 2-1
223.	21.03.93	South Melbourne	Drew 0-0
224.	27.03.93	Eastern Pride	Won 5-2
225.	04.04.93	Parramatta Eagles	Won 3-0
226.	11.04.93	Marconi Stallions	Lost 3-5
Finals series:			
227.	25.04.93	Adelaide Sharks	Lost 0-1
228.	28.04.93	Adelaide Sharks	Won 2-1
229.	02.05.93	Wollongong Wolves	Won 4-0
230.	09.05.93	South Melbourne	Won 3-1
231.	16.05.93	Marconi Stallions	Lost 0-1*
ADELAIDE CITY 1993-94 SEASON			
232.	24.10.93	Melbourne Knights	Lost 0-2
233.	24.11.93	Sydney Olympic	Drew 3-3^
234.	28.11.93	South Melbourne	Lost 0-3
235.	01.12.93	Heidelberg	Drew 0-0
236.	05.12.93	Brunswick	Won 6-0^
237.	10.12.93	Newcastle Breakers	Won 3-1
238.	15.12.93	Brisbane Strikers	Lost 1-2
239.	19.12.93	Eastern Pride	Drew 1-1
240.	22.12.93	Adelaide Sharks	Won 4-0
241.	26.12.93	Parramatta Eagles	Won 2-0^
242.	29.12.93	Sydney United	Lost 0-1
243.	03.01.94	Marconi Stallions	Drew 0-0
244.	09.01.94	Heidelberg	Won 3-0
245.	16.01.94	Melbourne Knights	Drew 1-1
246.	19.01.94	Wollongong Wolves	Lost 0-2
247.	23.01.94	Brisbane Strikers	Won 3-0
248.	26.01.94	Sydney Olympic	Drew 3-3
249.	30.01.94	Wollongong Wolves	Drew 0-0
250.	06.02.94	Adelaide Sharks	Lost 0-2
251.	13.02.94	South Melbourne	Won 3-0^
252.	20.02.94	Brunswick	Won 5-1
253.	27.02.94	Newcastle Breakers	Won 3-0
254.	05.03.94	Eastern Pride	Won 3-1
255.	13.03.94	Parramatta Eagles	Won 2-0
256.	20.03.94	Sydney United	Lost 1-3^
257.	27.03.94	Marconi Stallions	Drew 1-1
Finals series:			
258.	10.04.94	Sydney United	Lost 0-1
259.	17.04.94	Sydney United	Won 2-0
260.	20.04.94	Marconi Stallions	Won 3-1
261.	24.04.94	South Melbourne	Won 2-0
262.	01.05.94	Melbourne Knights	Won 1-0*
ADELAIDE CITY 1994-95 SEASON			
263.	23.10.94	Parramatta Eagles	Won 1-0
264.	06.11.94	Brunswick	Won 3-0
265.	13.11.94	Heidelberg	Won 1-0
266.	20.11.94	Eastern Pride	Drew 2-2^
267.	04.12.94	South Melbourne	Won 2-1
268.	11.12.94	Sydney Olympic	Won 3-1
269.	17.12.94	Marconi Stallions	Won 2-1
270.	27.12.94	Melbourne Knights	Won 3-0
271.	02.01.95	Brisbane Strikers	Drew 1-1
272.	08.01.95	Wollongong Wolves	Won 3-1
273.	15.01.95	Adelaide Sharks	Lost 1-2
274.	22.01.95	Sydney United	Won 3-0
275.	26.01.95	Parramatta Eagles	Won 1-0
276.	29.01.95	Brunswick	Lost 0-1
277.	05.02.95	Heidelberg	Drew 0-0
278.	26.02.95	South Melbourne	Lost 1-3
279.	05.03.95	Sydney Olympic	Won 2-0
280.	08.03.95	Eastern Pride	Won 2-1
281.	12.03.95	Marconi Stallions	Won 3-1
282.	19.03.95	Melbourne Knights	Lost 0-2
283.	26.03.95	Brisbane Strikers	Won 2-0^
284.	31.03.95	Wollongong Wolves	Won 3-2
285.	09.04.95	Adelaide Sharks	Won 2-1
Finals series:			
286.	17.04.95	Melbourne Knights	Won 1-0
287.	23.04.95	Melbourne Knights	Won 2-1
288.	07.05.95	Melbourne Knights	Lost 0-2*
ADELAIDE CITY 1995-96 SEASON			
289.	08.10.95	Canberra Cosmos	Won 2-0
290.	15.10.95	Wollongong Wolves	Won 2-0
291.	18.10.95	South Melbourne	Lost 1-2
292.	22.10.95	Sydney Olympic	Lost 0-1
293.	29.10.95	Marconi Stallions	Lost 0-2
294.	05.11.95	Adelaide Sharks	Won 2-1
295.	17.11.95	Newcastle Breakers	Lost 1-2
296.	26.11.95	Melbourne Knights	Drew 2-2^
297.	28.11.95	Brisbane Strikers	Won 7-0^
298.	02.12.95	Eastern Pride	Won 4-0
299.	06.12.95	Sydney United	Drew 2-2
300.	09.12.95	Canberra Cosmos	Drew 0-0
301.	17.12.95	Wollongong Wolves	Won 1-0
302.	23.12.95	South Melbourne	Lost 0-2
303.	26.12.95	Sydney Olympic	Drew 0-0
304.	30.12.95	Marconi Stallions	Lost 2-4
305.	07.01.96	Adelaide Sharks	Lost 0-2
306.	03.02.96	Brisbane Strikers	Lost 1-7
307.	07.02.96	Eastern Pride	Won 5-0
308.	18.02.96	Melbourne Knights	Won 1-0
309.	02.03.96	Sydney United	Drew 2-2
310.	05.03.96	Newcastle Breakers	Won 2-1
311.	10.03.96	Canberra Cosmos	Won 6-0
312.	13.03.96	Wollongong Wolves	Drew 3-3
313.	17.03.96	South Melbourne	Won 2-1
314.	31.03.96	Adelaide Sharks	Won 3-0
315.	08.04.96	Newcastle Breakers	Won 4-2
316.	14.04.96	Melbourne Knights	Won 5-0^
317.	20.04.96	Eastern Pride	Drew 0-0
318.	28.04.96	Sydney United	Lost 1-3^
Finals series:			
319.	05.05.96	Sydney Olympic	Won 2-0
320.	12.05.96	Sydney Olympic	Won 1-0
321.	15.05.96	Sydney United	Won 1-0
322.	19.05.96	Marconi Stallions	Lost 1-4^
ADELAIDE CITY 1996-97 SEASON			
323.	13.10.96	Brisbane Strikers	Drew 0-0
324.	19.10.96	Wollongong Wolves	Lost 0-1
325.	03.11.96	Melbourne Knights	Drew 0-0
326.	06.11.96	South Melbourne	Won 2-1
327.	10.11.96	Marconi Stallions	Lost 0-1
328.	17.11.96	Sydney Olympic	Drew 1-1
329.	24.11.96	Adelaide Sharks	Won 1-0
330.	30.11.96	Perth Glory	Lost 1-2^
331.	08.12.96	Canberra Cosmos	Won 1-0^
332.	15.12.96	Collingwood Warriors	Won 3-1
333.	22.12.96	Eastern Pride	Won 4-1
334.	29.12.96	Sydney United	Drew 1-1
335.	05.01.97	Newcastle Breakers	Drew 2-2
336.	10.01.97	Newcastle Breakers	Drew 1-1
337.	01.02.97	Brisbane Strikers	Won 3-1
338.	09.02.97	Wollongong Wolves	Drew 0-0
339.	16.02.97	South Melbourne	Won 2-0^
340.	23.02.97	Melbourne Knights	Won 1-0
341.	01.03.97	Marconi Stallions	Lost 1-3
342.	09.03.97	Sydney Olympic	Drew 2-2
343.	16.03.97	Adelaide Sharks	Won 2-0^
344.	23.03.97	Perth Glory	Drew 1-1
345.	29.03.97	Canberra Cosmos	Won 1-0
346.	06.04.97	Collingwood Warriors	Won 1-0
347.	12.04.97	Eastern Pride	Lost 0-2
348.	20.04.97	Sydney United	Drew 1-1
Finals series:			
349.	26.04.97	Marconi Stallions	Lost 0-3
350.	04.05.97	Marconi Stallions	Won 4-0
351.	11.05.97	South Melbourne	Lost 0-1
ADELAIDE CITY 1997-98 SEASON			
352.	12.10.97	Perth Glory	Won 4-1
353.	19.10.97	Sydney United	Lost 0-2
354.	25.10.97	Carlton	Lost 1-3
355.	01.11.97	Canberra Cosmos	Won 2-1
356.	09.11.97	Brisbane Strikers	Won 1-0
357.	07.12.97	Marconi Stallions	Won 5-0
358.	28.12.97	South Melbourne	Lost 1-4
359.	04.01.98	South Melbourne	Won 3-1
360.	07.01.98	Newcastle Breakers	Won 4-0
361.	11.01.98	Wollongong Wolves	Lost 1-2^
362.	14.01.98	Adelaide Sharks	Drew 1-1
363.	18.01.98	Perth Glory	Lost 0-1
364.	23.01.98	Sydney United	Won 1-0
365.	01.02.98	Carlton	Drew 1-1
366.	18.02.98	Wollongong Wolves	Won 4-2
367.	22.02.98	Canberra Cosmos	Won 4-1
368.	01.03.98	Brisbane Strikers	Drew 2-2^
369.	04.03.98	Melbourne Knights	Lost 0-2
370.	08.03.98	Sydney Olympic	Lost 0-1
371.	13.03.98	Newcastle Breakers	Drew 0-0
372.	28.03.98	Marconi Stallions	Lost 0-2
373.	05.04.98	Adelaide Sharks	Won 3-1
374.	12.04.98	Eastern Pride	Lost 0-1
Finals series:			
375.	19.04.98	Wollongong Wolves	Lost 0-3
376.	26.04.98	Wollongong Wolves	Drew 2-2
ADELAIDE CITY 1998-99 SEASON			
377.	11.10.98	Perth Glory	Lost 0-1
378.	18.10.98	Carlton	Lost 1-4
379.	25.10.98	Melbourne Knights	Won 3-0
380.	01.11.98	Wollongong Wolves	Drew 1-1
381.	21.11.98	Brisbane Strikers	Won 1-0
382.	29.11.98	Sydney United	Won 3-2
383.	07.12.98	Canberra Cosmos	Won 1-0
384.	13.12.98	South Melbourne	Drew 1-1
385.	19.12.98	Eastern Pride	Lost 0-1
386.	27.12.98	Adelaide Sharks	Won 5-0
387.	03.01.99	Newcastle Breakers	Lost 0-1
388.	10.01.99	Marconi Stallions	Won 2-0
389.	17.01.99	Sydney Olympic	Lost 1-2
390.	24.01.99	Perth Glory	Won 2-1^
391.	26.01.99	Carlton	Won 3-0
392.	31.01.99	Canberra Cosmos	Won 1-0
393.	07.02.99	Sydney United	Drew 1-1
394.	14.02.99	Melbourne Knights	Lost 1-3
395.	21.02.99	Wollongong Wolves	Drew 4-4
396.	05.03.99	Northern Spirit	Lost 0-1
397.	14.03.99	Brisbane Strikers	Won 3-0^
398.	21.03.99	South Melbourne	Drew 1-1
399.	28.03.99	Eastern Pride	Drew 0-0
400.	04.04.99	Adelaide Sharks	Lost 0-1
401.	11.04.99	Newcastle Breakers	Won 1-0
402.	18.04.99	Marconi Stallions	Lost 0-1
403.	25.04.99	Sydney Olympic	Won 1-0^
Finals series:			
404.	01.05.99	Perth Glory	Drew 0-0
405.	07.05.99	Perth Glory	Lost 1-2
ADELAIDE CITY 1999-2000 SEASON			
406.	01.10.99	Canberra Cosmos	Lost 0-3
407.	09.10.99	Brisbane Strikers	Lost 1-2
408.	15.10.99	Parramatta Power	Won 2-1
409.	24.10.99	Perth Glory	Drew 0-0
410.	29.10.99	Carlton	Drew 0-0
411.	19.11.99	Newcastle Breakers	Drew 1-1
412.	04.12.99	Sydney Olympic	Lost 0-2
413.	10.12.99	Wollongong Wolves	Lost 1-2
414.	17.12.99	Northern Spirit	Won 3-0
415.	28.12.99	Football Kingz	Won 2-0
416.	02.01.00	Eastern Pride	Drew 1-1
417.	07.01.00	Canberra Cosmos	Won 1-0
418.	16.01.00	Melbourne Knights	Drew 1-1
419.	21.01.00	Newcastle Breakers	Lost 0-1
420.	26.01.00	Newcastle Breakers	Won 2-0
421.	30.01.00	Marconi Stallions	Drew 2-2
422.	04.02.00	Brisbane Strikers	Won 6-2
423.	12.02.00	Parramatta Power	Lost 0-1
424.	18.02.00	Perth Glory	Lost 1-2
425.	26.02.00	Carlton	Won 2-1
426.	03.03.00	Sydney United	Won 4-0
427.	17.03.00	Newcastle Breakers	Won 2-1
428.	23.03.00	Football Kingz	Won 2-0
429.	31.03.00	Sydney Olympic	Won 2-0
430.	05.04.00	South Melbourne	Drew 2-2
431.	14.04.00	Northern Spirit	Won 4-2
432.	22.04.00	Football Kingz	Won 2-0
433.	25.04.00	Eastern Pride	Won 3-1
434.	30.04.00	Marconi Stallions	Won 4-2
435.	07.05.00	Melbourne Knights	Won 3-1
Finals series:			
436.	14.05.00	Sydney Olympic	Lost 1-4
PARRAMATTA POWER 2000-01 SEASON			
437.	13.10.00	Marconi Stallions	Lost 0-2
438.	22.10.00	Melbourne Knights	Lost 1-2
439.	27.10.00	Brisbane Strikers	Won 3-1^
440.	03.11.00	Newcastle United	Won 2-0
441.	11.11.00	Canberra Cosmos	Lost 2-3
442.	19.11.00	Wollongong Wolves	Lost 0-2
443.	26.11.00	South Melbourne	Drew 1-1^
444.	01.12.00	Sydney United	Won 3-2
445.	10.12.00	Sydney Olympic	Won 2-0
446.	16.12.00	Eastern Pride	Won 2-0

(2000-01 season incomplete)
** denotes grand final; ^ denotes goal scored*
Opponents and venues are listed by their current or most recognised name

National Youth League 2000/2001

NORTHERN DIVISION (ROUND 10)

WEDNESDAY 13 DECEMBER 2000

Parramatta Power .....8 **Newcastle Utd Colts** 0
(Thompson 17', Clark 21', Own goal 28', Griffiths 38', Gavaghan 43', Santalab 48', 66', Lee 65')

FRIDAY 15 DECEMBER 2000

Newcastle United .....3 **Marconi Stallions Colts** .1
(Haynes 43', Cook 52', Juchniewicz 83') *(Brosque 84')*

SATURDAY 16 DECEMBER 2000

QAS .....2 **NSWIS** 1
(Davidson 69', Johnson 70') *(Stavroulakis 73')*

Canberra Cosmos .....1 **Sydney Olympic Youth** ..3
(Aleksic 14') *(Sarr 69', Wilson 85', Sarmonikas 89')*

Wollongong Wolves .....3 **Sydney United** 0
(Own goal 3', Bishop 68', Aldridge 81')

SUNDAY 17 DECEMBER 2000

Sydney Olympic Academy .....0 **Northern Spirit** 0

Marconi Stallions Youth .....1 **AIS** 1
(Mondello 72') *(Martin 23')*

Bye – ACT Academy

	P	W	D	B	L	F	A	Pts
A.I.S.	**11**	**9**	**1**	**1**	**1**	**28**	**9**	**28**
Marconi Stallions	9	6	2	0	1	14	4	20
Parramatta Power	9	6	1	0	2	29	13	19
Northern Spirit	9	6	1	1	2	20	7	19
Sydney United	9	5	1	1	3	17	14	17
Wollongong Wolves	8	4	2	1	2	17	10	14
Newcastle United	9	4	1	0	4	13	9	13
Q.A.S.	12	4	1	0	7	20	32	13
Marconi Stallions Colts	9	4	0	1	5	21	14	12
N.S.W.I.S.	9	3	2	1	4	8	11	11
Sydney Olympic	8	3	1	1	4	17	19	10
Canberra Cosmos	9	2	3	1	4	16	18	9
Sydney Olympic Academy	10	1	2	0	7	10	19	5
Newcastle United Colts	6	1	0	1	5	1	20	3
ACT Academy	9	1	0	1	8	3	34	3

ROUND 11

w/e 23rd December 2000 K/O

AIS Vs Sydney Olympic Academy, TBA
AIS Soccer Field

FRIDAY 22 DECEMBER 2000
NSWIS Vs Parramatta Power, 6:30pm
Valentine Sports Park

SATURDAY 23 DECEMBER 2000
Sydney United Vs Marconi Stallions Colts, 4:00pm
Sydney United Sports Centre

Sydney Olympic Youth Vs Wollongong Wolves, 4:00pm
Belmore Sports Ground
Newcastle Breakers Colts Vs Canberra Cosmos, 4:00pm
McLaughlin Oval
16/03/01, Northern Spirit Vs QAS, 5:05pm,
North Sydney Oval

ACT Academy Vs Marconi Stallions Youth, 5:00pm
AIS Soccer Field

BYE - Newcastle United Youth

SOUTHERN DIVISION (ROUND 8)

WEDNESDAY 13 DECEMBER 2000

Bulleen Zebras .....1 **VIS** 3
(Eddie Espinoza) *(Michael Sham-Yuen 2, Serkan Oksuz)*

FRIDAY 15 DECEMBER 2000

Carlton Peninsula Blues .....3 **Melb. Knights Aca.** 1
(Carlo Malina, Caleb Nicholls, Blake Edwards) *(Sercan Doganay)*

Melbourne Knights .....4 **Green Gully** 0
(Robert Carmignani 3, Ivan Gelemanovic)

SATURDAY 16 DECEMBER 2000

Carlton .....4 **Sth Melb Eagles Aca** ...3
(Ramazan Yagiz 2, David Petkovski, Vince Zafferano) *(Mario Kalakis 2, Frank Lagana)*

Preston Lions .....3 **VIS** 8
(Bobby Dolevski 2, Zive Koleski) *(Ibrahim Ibrahimi 3, Vito Ceniti 2, Michael Sham-Yuen, Spase Dilveski, own goal)*

SUNDAY 17 DECEMBER 2000

Bulleen Zebras .....2 **Eastern Pride** 5
(Carmella Impiombato 2) *(Tony Pardo 3, Denis Mustac, Milos Petrevski)*

Fawkner Blues .....1 **Albury Wodonga** 3
(Brett Cunningham) *(Brian Edland 2, Mile Sredojevic)*

South Dandenong .....2 **South Melbourne** 5
(Viktor Memeti 2) *(Steve Mancevski 2, Elias Dimourtzidis, Richie Alagich, Vince Lia)*

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Eastern Pride	**8**	**7**	**0**	**1**	**34**	**8**	**21**
VIS	9	7	0	2	27	14	21
Melbourne Knights	8	6	0	2	24	11	18
South Melbourne Institute	7	5	0	2	30	16	15
Carlton Peninsula Blues	6	4	0	2	21	7	12
Carlton	6	4	0	2	20	8	12
Melb. Knights Academy	8	4	0	4	12	15	12
South Dandenong	7	3	2	2	13	12	11
South Melb. Eagles Ac	7	3	0	4	14	16	9
Albury Wodonga	8	2	1	5	8	23	7
Bulleen Zebras	9	2	0	7	12	27	6
Green Gully Cavaliers	8	1	2	5	6	18	5
Fawkner Blues	7	1	1	5	9	25	4
Preston Lions	6	0	0	6	4	34	0

FIXTURES

ROUND 9

SATURDAY 23 DECEMBER 2000
Eastern Pride v Carlton Peninsula Blues,
(Mobil Park, 5 pm)
VIS v Bulleen Zebras,
(Grange Reserve, 4 pm)
Green gully v Preston Lions,
(Green Gully Reserve, 5 pm)
Albury Wodonga v Melbourne Knights,
(Greenfield Park, 4 pm)
Carlton v South Dandenong,
(TBA, 4 pm)
Bye v South Melbourne
Bye v Melbourne Knights Academy

By Roy Hay

VIS 3 BULLEEN 1

The Victorian Institute of Sport got back on the winning track with a 3-1 away win against Bulleen Zebras on Wednesday in a match brought forward from late in the season. The first half was very tight, as the defences and the midfields dominated and no goals were scored.

Michael Sham-Yuen made the breakthrough for the VIS in the 49th minute with the opening goal, taking advantage of a defensive lapse, rounding the last man and scoring well.

Serkan Oksuz extended the VIS lead in 59 minutes with a similar goal. Eddie Espinoza headed home a Les Gerdes corner kick that had been flicked on to him for Bulleen in 62 minutes to put his side back in contention. Sham-Yuen's second goal after 78 minutes secured all three points for the VIS.

CARLTON 3 SOUTH MELBOURNE 3

"Phew, What a game!" is how Carlton coach Phil Stubbins described this match which had everything. Goals, controversy over pitch markings, the sprinklers came on during the game and the Eagles shot away to a 3-0 lead in the first 35 minutes with two goals by Mario Kalakis and one by Vince Zafferano.

Then when the water subsided Carlton fired in a skidding free kick for its opening goal. Ramazan Yagiz scored two, including the equaliser, David Petkovski and Frank Lagana one apiece.

Stubbins went on, ìWe had far more chances than our opposition in this match. However, after saying this, I thought South Melbourne played superbly well as a team and gave Carlton a real run for their money, especially in the first half.

"They looked organized and enthusiastic in their endeavours and I'm sure they will only get better as the season progresses.

"Nevertheless, Carlton, were superb to a man. Special praise going to Isyan Erdogan, who, once again, was a real driving force for the team today. Eddy Awad also did a fantastic job along with Yagiz and the ever improving, Frank Lagana.

"I believe, once Frankie gets to full fitness, he is going to be one of the best young talents in Australia. At only 15, he is continuing to impress me and looks to have everything a modern player needs to go all the way in the game.

"I am extremely proud of his efforts and still reckon he has so much more to give. Finally, I would like to say that it was a real buzz to be part of this win today and hopefully we can take something out of the match for future encounters."

CARLTON PENINSULA 3 KNIGHTS ACADEMY 1

Carlton Peninsula Blues beat Melbourne Knights Academy by 3-1 in front of another large crowd between three and four hundred people at Lawton Reserve last Friday night.

Carlo Malina, Caleb Nicholls and Blake Edwards scored for the Blues and Sercan Doganay for the Academy.

It would be a great pity if this fine team from the Peninsula were to be caught up in the events surrounding its senior club, for coach Gus McLeod and the people at Langwarrin have done a great job in getting the team into the NYL.

MELB KNIGHTS 4 GREEN GULLY 0

Melbourne Knights downed Green Gully 4-0 at Knights Stadium on Friday night. The hero was Robert Carmignani whose hat-trick was superbly taken. Ivan Gelemanovic scored the other goal for the Knights.

VIS 9 PRESTON 3

The VIS eventually proved too strong for Preston Lions winning by nine goals to three. For Preston Robert Dolevski scored twice and Zive Koleski got the other. Dolevski has been at Preston for seven years and is on the verge of great things and it was the leaky Preston defence which was its downfall.

For the VIS there were some excellent individual performances, but coach Ernie Merrick felt that the team play was not as crisp as usual.

Ibrahim Ibrahimi scored a hat-trick, Vito Ceniti got two, Michael Sham-Yuen his third for the week, Spase Dilevski converted a penalty kick and there was an own goal.

Dilevski continues to impress with every game, while thirteen-year-old Evan Karavitis had his first full game and looked very sharp. Christian Morales in goals was also excellent.

EASTERN PRIDE 5 BULLEEN 2

Eastern Pride downed Bulleen Zebras by 5-2 at the Veneto Club. Bulleen could have been three up in the opening ten minutes, but for some excellent saves by the Pride keeper.

Denis Mustac scored the opener for the Pride to keep up his incredible goal a game run.

"He is a big boy, but nobody seems to mark him, and this goal was a gimme", said team manager Derek Bailey.

Milos Petrevski scored a second, before Carmella Impiombato pulled a goal back for Bulleen. At half time the Pride brought on Tony Pardo as substitute and he responded with a hat-trick, but he could have had seven. Impiombato scored a late penalty kick for Bulleen.

ALBURY 3 FAWKNER 1

Albury Wodonga had a 3-1 win over Fawkner. Brian Edland scored twice and Mile Sredojevic once, while the inevitable Brett Cunningham scored Fawkner's goal.

STH MELBOURNE 5 STH DANDENONG 2

Finally South Melbourne overcame South Dandenong by 5-2. Souths went ahead but South Dandenong pulled level with the first of Viktor Memeti's two goals, but then Mentor Memeti was sent off and with twenty minutes to go Boris Ovcin also got his marching orders.

That left the way open for the Blues to come home strongly, though they too lost a player late in the game. The scorers for the Blues were Steve Mancevski with two, Elias Dimourtzidis, Richie Alagich and Vince Lia.

LEADING SCORERS

Denis Mustac	Eastern Pride	10
Viktor Memeti	South Dandenong	8
Steve Mancevski	South Melbourne	8
Brett Cunningham	Fawkner Blues	7
Josip Loncaric	Melbourne Knights	7

STARS IN THE MAKING

ABSW's Mark Stavroulakis continues his weekly look at Junior Soccer in Australia.

Beren Sullivan

AT A GLANCE

Full Name:	Beren Jeffery Sullivan
Club:	Wollongong Wolves
DOB:	26/5/81
Left/Right:	Right
Eye Colour:	Blue
Hair Colour:	Blonde
Height:	175cm
Weight:	70kg
Positions Played:	Right Wing Back

THE STATS & FACTS

Clubs Played At:
U13-U16 Southern Branch
Spent half a year at the NSW ITC
Spent two years at the AIS
Signed with Wollongong in February 2000

Age Started Playing Soccer: 4

THE LOOK FORWARD

Career Highlight To Date: Trailing for Leeds United in '98, winning the National Youth League Title twice with the AIS and getting an U20's invitation to trail for the Young Socceroos.

Ambition: To play for Australia and play professional, whether it is here in Australia or overseas.

Words Of Advice: 'Always have fun with it'

Best Advice Received: 'Control the controllables' *(Steve O'Conner, AIS Coach)*

PERSONALITY INSIGHT

Favourite Actor: Mel Gibson
Favourite Actress: Harley Berry

Top 5 Movies:
-Star Wars Trilogy
-Stand By Me
-Good Will Hunting

Favourite Comedian: Jimoin

If you could be a character from any movie who would you be? Darth Vader in Star Wars

Best ever concert: Red Hot Chili Peppers concert in 1996 at the Sydney Entertainment Centre

5 Cd's You Couldn't Do Without?
-Guns 'N' Roses — Use Your Illusion 2
-Wild 11
-Red Hot Chili Peppers — One hot minute
-Blink 182 — Enema Of The State
- Red Hot Chili Peppers — Californication

Favourite TV show: Simpsons
Favourite Cartoon Character: Homer Simpson

Dinner Party For 6, Who Would You Invite?
-Homer Simpson
-Darth Vader
-Yoda
-Tyra Banks
-Mum
-Brother

Entrée: Prawn Cocktails
Main Course: Chicken Schnitzel
Dessert: Cream Caramel

THE PEERS

Favourite Overseas Player: Harry Kewell
Favourite Overseas Team: Leeds United
Most Admired Australian Player (Local Based): Matthew Horsley
Most Admired Australian Player (Overseas Based): Harry Kewell
Most Admired Defender: Jaap Stam
Most Admired Midfielder: Rivaldo
Most Admired Striker: Gabriel Batistuta
Most Admired Goalkeeper: Grant Barlow
Hardest Opponent (Played): Matthew Horsley

Last year's dramatic Grand-Final winners, the new look Wollongong Wolves side is ready to pounce on yet another title this year.

19-year-old right wing back Beren Sullivan is one player in particular, that looks to be a future star for the club.

Beren started his career at First Division youth league side Southern Branch. He spent four solid seasons there and believes it was a stepping-stone towards his career in the top flight. "I came from Goulburn, and it was tough at times for my parents, who took me to the games and trainings three times a week. We managed to win the U16 age group and I was chosen as the player of the year in that age group which was really good for my confidence. Overall, Southern Branch was the starting point towards my career," said Beren.

After his four years down the South Coast, Beren was chosen to play for the NSW ITC. "I spent half a year at the ITC where Kelly Cross was the coach. I had never experienced the style of coaching Kelly gave me and always enjoyed training with the squad. Playing in the National Youth League was a huge buzz at that time as I was playing against tougher and bigger opponents," said the former Southern Branch star.

The 'Red Barron' had also represented his state as a young lad, something of a big achievement at that age. "I represented NSW Country state squads in both the U15 and U16. It was a brilliant experience for myself as many scouts from around the world and coaches from the National League watch this event for potential stars, which in turn create new avenues for players like myself," said Beren.

After Sullivan spent half a year at the ITC, the AIS stepped in and called for the services of young Beren.

"The AIS had scouted me from the Nationals and when I played for the ITC and wanted to take me on. I signed with the AIS and spent two great seasons there. Steve O'Connor was the best coach I've ever had as he helped my game in many ways. The AIS is brilliant, the facilities are top notch and the training methods are world class. At the AIS, your mind is only focused on one thing and that is soccer, that is why so many quality players from the AIS tend to move either overseas or play regularly for a National League club. In my two years at the Institute we took out the National Youth League titles twice, something of a dream," said the young gun.

Sullivan felt that after two seasons at the AIS, it was time for a change, and the Wolves stepped in to secure the services of this youngster. "Stuart Beattie, Youth coach of Wollongong two seasons ago and now first grade assistant asked me to trial with the club last year. They liked what they saw and signed me on as a one-year apprentice. The move to the Wolves was great as it was closer to home and I feel as though it was a team that would offer young players a go," said the young Wollongong ace.

Beren has made just that one National League appearance and that was the final game of last year's National League competition against Carlton. "I played a full-game, even though the match didnít mean much as both teams had made the semis, it was great playing against the bigger boys," said Sullivan.

One big experience Beren encountered as a youngster was a trial he gained at English giants Leeds United. "I was 16, and it was in November '97, I had gone on a four week trial on a big brother scholarship (similar to the Harry Kewell deal) to Leeds United. I roomed with Kewell, McPhail, Mayberry and Lynch all current first graders for Leeds. It was an unbelievable experience I will never forget, I was training with the reserves and I saw first hand what it takes to become a Premier League player."

Peter Zorbas

AT A GLANCE

Full Name:	Peter Zorbas
Club:	Sydney Olympic
DOB:	14/5/79
Left/Right:	Both
Eye Colour:	Blue
Hair Colour:	Brown
Height:	175cm
Weight:	68kg
Positions Played:	Midfield — Wing Back

THE STATS & FACTS

Clubs Played At:
U13 — U14 Sydney Olympic
U15 — Melita Eagles
U16 — Colts & Youth — Sydney Olympic
Signed a 1st grade contract in '99

Age Started Playing Soccer: 5

THE LOOK FORWARD

Career Highlight To Date: My debut against the Canberra Cosmos two seasons ago and trailing in Greece for Panathinaikos

Ambition: To have a good season this year and head overseas.

Words Of Advice: 'Don't be afraid to have a go'

Best Advice Received: Don't be afraid to have a go' *(Father, Manuel)*

PERSONALITY INSIGHT

Favourite Actor: Eddie Murphy
Favourite Actress: Julia Roberts

Top 5 Movies:
-Gladiator
-Shawshank Redemption
-Beverly Hills Cop
-Gone In 60 Seconds
-American Pie

Favourite Comedian: Arthur Diles

If you could be a character from any movie who would you be? Nicholas Cage in Gone In 60 Seconds.

Best ever concert: Q-bar in Sydney

5 Cd's You Couldn't Do Without?
-Enrique Inglesias
-Ministry of Sound Annual 2000
-Subornication
-Bon Jovi — Slippery When Wet
-Mykonos — Day & Night

Favourite TV show: Friends
Favourite Cartoon Character: Cartman

Dinner Party For 6, Who Would You Invite?
- Eddie Murphy
- Girlfriend
- Harry Kewell
- Grandmother
- Elias Augerinos
- Ante Juric

Entrée: Kilpatrick Oysters
Main Course: Lobster
Dessert: Tira Misu

THE PEERS

Favourite Overseas Player: Rivaldo
Favourite Overseas Team: Liverpool
Most Admired Australian Player (Local Based): Ante Juric
Most Admired Australian Player (Overseas Based): Brett Emerton
Most Admired Defender: Franco Baresi
Most Admired Midfielder: Rivaldo
Most Admired Striker: Gabriel Batistuta
Most Admired Goalkeeper: Peter Schmichael
Hardest Opponent (Played): Pablo Cardozo

Playing for Sydney Olympic for most his soccer career, Peter Zorbas knows what it takes to make it to the top level.

The 21-year-old midfielder cum wingback has pretty much called Olympic his second family spending some seven years at the club.

Coming up through the junior ranks of the club, Peter played for Olympic as a junior.

"It was terrific at that age, as soccer was the be all end all. I always wanted to play at school and I couldn't wait to play games and train with the side.

"I played for Olympic in the U13 and U14's side, then left for a season and went to Parramatta Melita at the age of 15. After my short stint there, I knew my heart was always at Olympic and came back the following year in which I enjoyed much success captaining the side to a state championship," said Zorbas.

After his junior career at Olympic, Zorbas played for both the Colts and Youth side at a very young age.

"I captained the Colts and Youth squad and I knew that I had to perform well as a leader of the side. It was a big step-up from junior level as I was only 16 and played in the youth squad but overall a great experience,î said Peter.

The big break for ëZorby' came in season 98/99 when Olympic were rocked with injuries, suspensions and international duties.

"It was the game against Canberra, I was 19 and got my first chance of playing first grade.

It was great, I came off the bench and played 35 minutes but did enough to cement a spot in the next game against South Melbourne.

I managed to play the final eight games of the season and when the new season started the following year, they signed me on a first grade contract," said the Sydney Olympic star.

The former electrician had a admirable first year, taking part in almost every game.

Peter Zorbas

"I played thirty one out of thirty four games and scored one goal which I'll never forget. It was against Parramatta Power. I scored, then a couple of minutes later I was sent off.

Sydney Olympic have started well this season and the former Hunters Hill student believes that the mixture of the new and old players has made this happen.

"We are doing well, but we slipped off the last couple of games. We have a good young squad, and also the new players have done well, but with the older and experienced players in the side, I think we've done quite well,î said young Zorbas.

Having such a young squad, Zorbas believes that having this in a side is vital for the future.

. "It's a good thing having youngsters in the squad as it shows that the side has a strong future. We have the cream of the crop of youngsters like Nick Carle, Greg Owens, Lindsay Wilson and Sebastian Sinozic all under the age of 22 and past or present international reprsentatives," said 'Zorby'.

Zorbas has already trailed overseas and from reports impressed at the club.

"It was two years ago through a Brother-Sister program I went to Panathinaikos in Greece for four weeks. I did really well playing in the reserve side and I think that young players in Australia are of much higher standard to young guys in Greece.

"The setup and facilities at the club were of first class, and were renowned around Europe as being one of the best. I however wanted to come back to Australia to establish myself first here, then to go when the time is right," said the lucky youngster.

Zorbas has been plagued by injury for the last six months, however he is slowly finding his feet once again.

"I was out for 6 months, firstly my hips were out of place, then when I fixed that, I tore my thigh muscle four times. Now it's all over and hopefully my career will kick start even better this year," said the confident midfielder.

Zorbas was in full flight last week against Canberra, incidentally the team he debuted against and played his first 90 minutes for a long time.

"I thought I played okay, my fitness needs improving but overall I was happy with my first match back from injury," said Zorbas.

PSG CHASE DOMI AND RONALDINHO

Ronaldinho: Chased by PSG.

Big-spending Paris St Germain are negotiating to sign Brazilian international striker Ronaldinho Gaucho from Gremio, according to French media reports.

Ronaldinho, 20, has been a target for several leading European clubs including Barcelona and Inter Milan.

Le Parisien reported he had signed a pre-contract with PSG and could sign a deal as early as next week.

The tabloid reported that one of PSG's sponsors, television channel Canal Plus, were prepared to help finance the deal.

Ronaldinho — full name Ronaldo de Assis Moreira — would join a long line of Brazilians to have played for PSG including Rai, Ricardo and Leonardo, as well as current first-choice striker Christian.

Ronaldinho helped Brazil to the 1999 Copa America title and finished as top scorer at the 1999 Confederations Cup, scoring six goals.

Paris St Germain are also reported to be interested in re-signing fullback Didier Domi, who is currently playing with Newcastle United.

"If PSG want me, then I'll come back," Domi told Le Parisien.

Didier Domi: Reportedly chased by his former French club.

UEFA CHIEF SAYS REFORM ESSENTIAL

UEFA chief executive Gerhard Aigner says that the Champions League needs to be reformed to prevent fans losing interest in the tournament.

"We aren't going to immediately reform the Champions League or the UEFA Cup but must consider it at some time," Aigner said during a two-day meeting of UEFA's executive committee in Lausanne, Switzerland.

"I'm convinced the Champions League is too long and the fixture list is saturated. We don't want people to get bored and it's important the competitions are interesting," he added.

Despite a rise in attendances for this season's first group stage, there are concerns that bigger clubs such as Lazio, Bayern Munich and Juventus are playing home ties in half-empty stadia.

Another worry is that television audiences were down in all the major markets except Germany.

The current 32-team format was introduced last season under pressure from top clubs, who had threatened to break away from UEFA and form their own league unless they had better access to the highly lucrative European competitions.

UEFA's head of communications Mike Lee said there are unlikely to be any changes made for at least another two years because of the need to honour existing commercial and television deals.

"The season after next is a possibility, but I wouldn't say a strong possibility," he said.

Gerhard Aigner: Reform of the Champions league and UEFA Cups essential.

LAUDRUP DISMISSES COMEBACK RUMOUR

Former Danish international Brian Laudrup has dismissed media reports that he was planning a comeback.

"The story is an overblown balloon," Laudrup told Copenhagen daily newspaper Politiken.

Laudrup said he had told a local amateur soccer club that he would like to train with their team — and perhaps play the odd match — in order to keep himself fit.

"Now I see in newspapers and television that I am about to make a comeback," Laudrup said. "The story has spread to the British sports press which already sees me back at Glasgow Rangers."

"For me is it only a question of keeping myself in shape."

Laudrup ended his professional career in 1999, when a chronic Achilles tendon injury prevented him from completing his contract with Dutch side Ajax Amsterdam.

Laudrup, 31, earned 82 caps for Denmark as a midfielder and forward. He scored 21 goals before retiring from the national team after the 1998 World Cup in France.

Brian Laudrup: Denies he is making a professional comeback.

DEL BOSQUE DEFENDS PLAYERS AFTER REAL'S SHOCK CUP LOSS

Coach Vicente del Bosque refused to blame his players after Real Madrid's shock 2-1 defeat by third division Toledo in the King's Cup last week.

"I can't criticise their attitude. They gave all they could, but there wasn't time to make a comeback," he told reporters.

"All I can do is regret our elimination. We came up against a team that made life very difficult for us."

Real were hit with two strikes in the first 16 minutes by Israel Gonzalez and a neat volley from Cidoncha.

Brazilian international Savio pulled one back for the European Champions but it was Toledo who outplayed the club that had been voted team of the century at this week's FIFA awards ceremony in Rome.

Striker Fernando Morientes said: "I am really upset. Much of the blame lies with me because I missed several golden opportunities to score.

"Real Madrid always have to win games like this. There are no excuses for what happened." Real were missing Figo, Raul and Steve McManaman.

Vicente del Bosque: Players not to blame after his sides 2-1 loss to a third division side.

Toledo president Fernando Jerez, who is a Real Madrid season ticket-holder, was ecstatic about his team's performance.

"The score is misleading because we could have scored a lot more. We had them against the ropes all game. Now I want to draw Barcelona in the next round so we can eliminate them," he said.

The new one-match knock-out format provided other upsets.

Third division Gimnastica Torrelavega eliminated first division Alaves after penalties while Ceuta, another third division side, earned an entertaining 3-2 victory over top-flight Malaga.

A more predictable upset was achieved by third division Beasain as they beat struggling first division neighbours Real Sociedad 2-1.

NORWEGIAN REJECTS HAMMERS MOVE

Norwegian defender Ragnvald Soma turned down a move to Premier League West Ham because players in England drink too much, the Evening Standard newspaper reported.

"All the drinking at the English clubs doesn't tempt me," the under 21-international was quoted as saying.

"I'm not a teetotaller...but when players are getting drunk and smelling of alcohol in training the next day, the whole team suffers."

Soma said he now wanted to go to Italy.

ROMA BID FOR STAKE IN OLYMPIC STADIUM

AS Roma will bid for a stake in Rome's Olympic Stadium with Lazio, the club's general manager said in an interview last week.

The Italian government will publish the terms by March 2001 of its auction to sell part of Rome's Olympic Stadium — home of both table-topping Roma and champions Lazio.

"AS Roma is interested in the auction and will make a bid together with SS Lazio," Fabrizio Lucchesi told Reuters.

On the telecommunications front, AS Roma has been in talks with potential international partners to launch an interactive service aimed at the club's fans, he said.

WORLD

TRAORE SIGNS WITH LIVERPOOL FOR FOUR MORE YEARS

Liverpool's 20-year-old French defender Djimi Traore – currently sidelined with a hamstring injury – assured his long-term future at Anfield when he signed a new four-year contract with the club.

The French Under-18 international, who can play either as a central defender or left-back, made his debut for Liverpool in September 1999 after joining from his home town club Laval for 500,000 pounds ($728,800) the previous February.

After impressing for the reserves last season, he started the first six games of this campaign and has made 12 appearances so far.

He has not played since coming off at half-time in Liverpool's 2-2 draw with Olympiakos in the first leg of their UEFA Cup third round tie on November 23, but is hoping to be fit again by the end of the month.

Djimi Traore: Four more years at Anfield.

YEBOAH FACES JAIL TERM FOR TAX EVASION

A state prosecutor has called for a suspended jail term of 18 months for Ghanaian striker Tony Yeboah who is facing tax evasion charges in a Frankfurt court.

Yeboah, now with Hamburg SV, is alleged to have failed to pay 2.3 million marks ($1.04 million) in taxes while playing for Eintracht Frankfurt in 1993.

Prosecutor Juergen Radke told the court he believed the player and Eintracht officials had used a fictitious promotional contract to evade tax payments.

He said Yeboah should also be ordered to pay 300,000 marks ($135,600).

Also accused are former Eintracht vice-president Bernd Hoelzenbein, former treasurer Wolfgang Knispel and Yeboah's former tax adviser Johannes van Berk.

Radke requested suspended jail terms of two years for Hoelzenbein and Knispel and 15 months for Van Berk.

Earlier in his trial, the 34-year-old Yeboah said his Eintracht bosses were to blame and had taken advantage of the fact that he knew nothing of the German tax system.

A verdict is due on December 22.

Tony Yeboah: Facing trial over tax evasion.

HAMMERS FAIL TO NAIL DOWN KEANE

West Ham United manager Harry Redknapp has revealed that he made an unsuccessful 10 million pound bid for Inter Milan's Ireland international striker Robbie Keane.

Redknapp made his move last week, the club's website revealed, after selling defender Rio Ferdinand to English Premier League rivals Leeds United last month for 18 million pounds.

"We went over to Italy and had a meet with the people from (Inter) Milan and made an offer of 10 million pounds but we couldn't quite agree terms with them anyway," he told the website.

"It wasn't far away, I don't think, but I don't know if they really want to sell the boy anyway."

Keane joined the Serie A club from English premier league team Coventry City in July, but has failed to win a regular first team place.

Despite the setback, Redknapp plans to keep up the search for new talent, saying: "We need to bring in some quality players.

"We've got 18 million pounds for someone we paid nothing for, so we are entitled to have a go now."

Robbie Keane: Unable to nail down a regular spot at Inter.

LEICESTER SIGN JONES

Leicester City moved quickly to replace Northern Ireland midfielder Neil Lennon by paying Leeds United three million pounds for Welsh international Matthew Jones.

Leicester manager Peter Taylor, who is also acting as England's caretaker coach, completed the deal five days after Lennon's 5.75 million pounds move to Scotland's Celtic.

"I was desperate to sign the same type of replacement and there's no doubt in my mind that Matty can definitely fill Lennon's boots," said Taylor.

"He's already played 20 first-team games for Leeds and the fact that he's only 20 means he's still got a lot more left in his locker. He can be a holding player in midfield, but can also get forward and score goals."

Jones, who has signed a four and a half year contract at premier league Leicester, confirmed he had talks with Blackburn manager Graeme Souness before Taylor moved in for him.

"I'm very flattered that Mr Taylor has described me as a young Neil Lennon," said Jones.

"But although I have been signed as his replacement, I want to be my own man and play my own game.

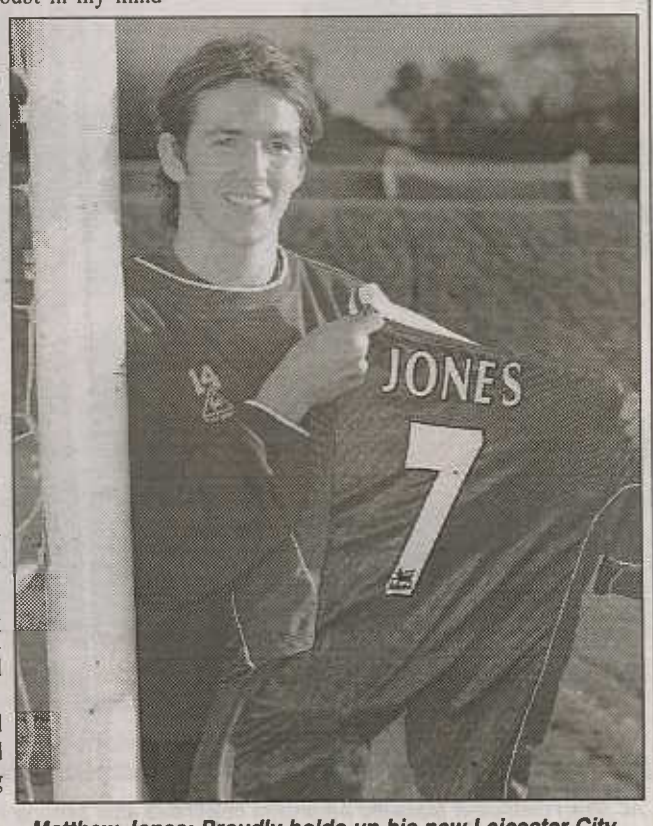
"I have a good engine and can get forward and I've had the best possible upbringing at Leeds.

"There's a big job to be done here but I am confident I am up to it."

Jones said he had made up his mind "instantly" to join Leicester after just one meeting with Taylor.

"You have to look at his record here and the number of games he went unbeaten as manager of the England under-21 team to be quickly sold on him.

"His plans and ambition for the future are massive."



Matthew Jones: Proudly holds up his new Leicester City jersey.

WORLD SERIE A

BOLOGNA 0 ATALANTA 1

Maurizio Ganz scored seven minutes from time as Atalanta came away with an important win to stay second in the table on goal difference behind Juventus.

The home side attacked for most of the match, coming close several times through Argentine striker Julio Cruz. Atalanta's counter-attacking paid off in the closing minutes as striker Marco Nappi broke away down the left, his cross setting up the unmarked Ganz.

INTER MILAN 0 BRESCIA 0

Inter attacked from the start but were unable to penetrate the Brescia defence thanks to some fine saves by goalkeeper Pavel Srnicek.

Brescia earned an important point in their bid to stay in the top flight while Inter failed to keep up with the league leaders.

Inter Milan's Alvaro Recoba jumps over the challenge of Brescia's Filippo Galli during their 0-0 draw at the San Siro.

LECCE 1 JUVENTUS 4

Juventus kept up the pace with a 4-1 win at Lecce. Filippo Inzaghi finally got back among the scorers as the Italy international drove home a shot from just inside the box, giving his side the early lead.

David Trezeguet added a second in the 28th minute. Lecce's Rodolfo Giorgetti cut the lead with a spectacular volley in the 70th minute before goals from Darko Kovacevic after 88 minutes and Gianluca Zambrotta in injury time made sure for the league leaders.

PARMA 0 VICENZA 2

In-form striker Luca Toni scored twice to give Vicenza an unexpected away victory. Toni scored early in the second half with a long-range shot that caught Parma goalkeeper Luigi Buffon out of position.

A few minutes later he held off two Parma defenders and dribbled across the Parma goal before firing home a shot in the top right hand corner. This was Parma's first home loss of the season.

AC Milan midfielder Massimo Ambrosini celebrates after scoring against Verona at the Mario Bentegodi Stadium in Verona.

UDINESE 1 FIORENTINA 3

Fiorentina earned their first away win of the season even though Udinese took the lead after eight minutes, Martin Jorgensen heading home a cross from Stefano Fiore.

Fiorentina were level before the break as Enrico Chiesa drove home a shot from just outside the box.

Two mistakes in two minutes by the Udinese defence paved the way for Fiorentina's second-half comeback.

An own goal by defender Andrea Sottil in the 65th minute was followed two minutes later by a bad clearance from Udinese goalkeeper Luigi Turci which Rui Costa slotted home. Udinese have now lost four consecutive league matches.

VERONA 1 AC MILAN 1

Massimo Ambrosini's header in the 22nd minute, set up by a cross from defender Francesco Coco, earned AC Milan a point.

Emiliano Bonazzoli's fifth goal of the season after four minutes had given the home side the lead. Verona have drawn six of their eleven matches, the most in Italy's Serie A.

NAPOLI 6 REGGINA 2

Napoli broke out of their scoring drought at the San Paolo Stadium. Six different players scored.

Napoli have now taken seven points from their last three matches under recently appointed manager Emiliano Mondonico. Napoli move up to ten points while Reggina remain bottom of the table, four points behind Bari.

PERUGIA 4 BARI 1

Giovanni Tedesco scored twice, helping Perugia to its third victory of the season. Perugia played with ten men for most of the match after defender Marco Materazzi was sent off in the 29th minute.

Bari closed the gap through Giacomo Mazzarelli but could not take advantage of their numerical superiority and were punished as Luca Saudati and youngster Tomaso Tatti rounded off the scoring.

LAZIO 0 ROMA 1

A 70th minute own goal from Lazio defender Paolo Negro gave Serie A leaders AS Roma a 1-0 victory in front of 80,000 in Rome.

Lazio had the only chance of a tightly-fought first half when Diego Simeone's header from a Pavel Nedved corner was well saved by Roma keeper Cristiano Lupatelli.

Gabriel Batistuta went close for Roma in the 66th minute

with a powerful 25 metre free kick however four minutes later Fabio Capello's side grabbed the winner when Peruzzi parried out a Cristiano Zanetti header and

Alessandro Nesta's attempted clearance struck Negro and bounced over the line.

RUSSO WRITES

By Joe Russo

This is the tale of two clubs. They both wear the same colours, blue and black, and they both come from the Lombardy region of Italy.

One club is very rich and is steeped in tradition, while the other is a perennial struggler and is often fighting for Serie A survival.

At the moment one club sits near the top of the Serie A ladder, while the other languishes in mid-table. So who are these two clubs?

Inter and Atalanta. There is no need to explain which one is which, except to say that their respective positions on the ladder are not what you would expect.

Atalanta have surprised all this season and after their first 10 rounds had only suffered one defeat. By contrast, Inter had lost four games in their first 10 rounds.

So how could one club get it so right and the other so wrong? If only we had an answer!

Atalanta, a little team from Bergamo, are all heart. They are coached by a 'no name' (Vavassori) and are basically a team of 'no names' such as Zauri, Carrera, Paganin, Zenoni, Rossini etc. Their only recognised player is striker Nicola Ventola, who was a member of the Italian Olympic team.

Atalanta play a clever brand of football and are a picture of determination, much unlike their neighbouring friends at Inter.

Inter are coached by a former legendary midfielder (Tardelli) and their playing staff reads like the who's who of soccer.

In terms of finance they have it all - their President, Massimo Moratti, is an oil magnate who can afford to buy any player.

However, there are two things that Moratti's money can't buy: heart and soul. Inter totally lack both.

There is no sense of pride in the club and they try to imitate their city rivals AC Milan and their national rivals Juventus, but sadly are well short of both.

At Inter, there is no sense of it being a club and all it is rather, is a bunch of overpaid players who are there for the money.

They last won a League Title (Scudetto) in 1989 under the guidance of then coach Giovanni Trapattoni. Another title still appears to be a very long way away.

Inter lack heart and soul and put simply, there is no team spirit at the place. Year in and year out, they try to buy a League Title. There is no sense of belonging either - if you fail as coach you are dumped, and if you fail as a player you are sold.

Money cannot buy what Juventus, Roma, AC Milan or even lowly placed Napoli have. The sooner that President Moratti realises this; the sooner Inter will become a team again.

Atalanta are the pride and joy of Italian football at the moment, but sadly Inter are still the same spoilt brats that they have been for the last decade or so.

▲▲▲▲

Amongst the leading teams in the Second Division (Serie B) at the moment is a team called Chievo. Little is known about this team and even their own city tends to reject them.

Chievo's full title is Chievo Verona - yes, they come from the city of Verona but well and truly live in the shadow of their Serie A 'cousins'.

They play at the same home ground, the 'Bentegodi Stadium', and they wear similar colours, yellow and blue. However, the city of Juliet's Balcony only follows one team and it isn't Chievo. They attract a fraction of the crowd that Verona attracts to their home games.

In most other cities it would be a real rivalry and derby games between these two teams (there have been many in the Serie B) would be something special. Not so in Verona! One could be forgiven for thinking that the city had only one team.

However, next year this could all be turned around. Verona's current indifferent form in the Serie A means that they are no certainty of surviving and are indeed a good chance of being relegated. Chievo's excellent run in the Serie B means that they are an excellent chance of promotion.

So, what if both scenarios eventuate? It would really be a case of the ugly duckling being the belle of the ball.

(Curiosity: Verona's full name is Hellas Verona)

WORLD PREMIER LEAGUE

ASTON VILLA 2 MAN CITY 2

City led twice but each time were pegged back. Alfe Inge Haaland finished off a sweeping move from close range to open the scoring after 65 minutes, Dion Dublin glancing in a David Ginola cross for the equaliser six minutes later.

Paulo Wanchope blasted City back into the lead and they looked on course for victory when Villa's Lee Hendrie was sent off.

However, David Ginola smashed in a 25-metre shot four minutes from time to save a point for Villa.

Ginola, criticised by manager John Gregory for being too fat, promptly removed his shirt to display his fit-looking torso and was booked.

Manchester City defender Alf Inge Haaland celebrates scoring against Aston Villa at Villa Park. The final score was 2-2.

DERBY 1 COVENTRY 0

Malcolm Christie got the vital goal from close range after eight minutes and Derby held out for just their second home win of the season.

EVERTON 1 WEST HAM 1

After some scrappy football Danny Cadamateri put Everton ahead after 71 minutes, getting the faintest of touches to Steve Watson's goal-bound header from a corner.

In a rare West Ham attack Frederic Kanoute equalised after a neat turn in the box seven minutes from time.

IPSWICH 3 SOUTHAMPTON 1

Ipswich won it with two goals in the first five minutes of the second half after being outplayed for the opening 45 minutes.

Marians Pahars crossed for James Beattie to head his eighth goal in seven games after just three minutes and only good goalkeeping by Richard Wright kept Saints at bay.

But two free kicks early in second half, both poorly dealt with by the Southampton defence, turned the game around. James Scowcroft got on the end of the first four minutes after the break and Alun Armstrong tucked in the second three minutes later.

Recent-signing Armstrong completed the victory in the last minute.

LEEDS 2 SUNDERLAND 0

Ian Bowyer, set up by Mark Viduka, put Leeds ahead with a left-foot shot and Viduka doubled the lead 12 minutes from time.

There was more good news for Leeds as Harry Kewell came through unscathed after making his first start of the season and David Batty, another long-term injury victim, came on as a second-half substitute.

LEICESTER 3 CHARLTON 1

Jonatan Johansson blasted Charlton ahead after six minutes, his 10th goal of the season, but Leicester showed all their fighting qualities to hit back.

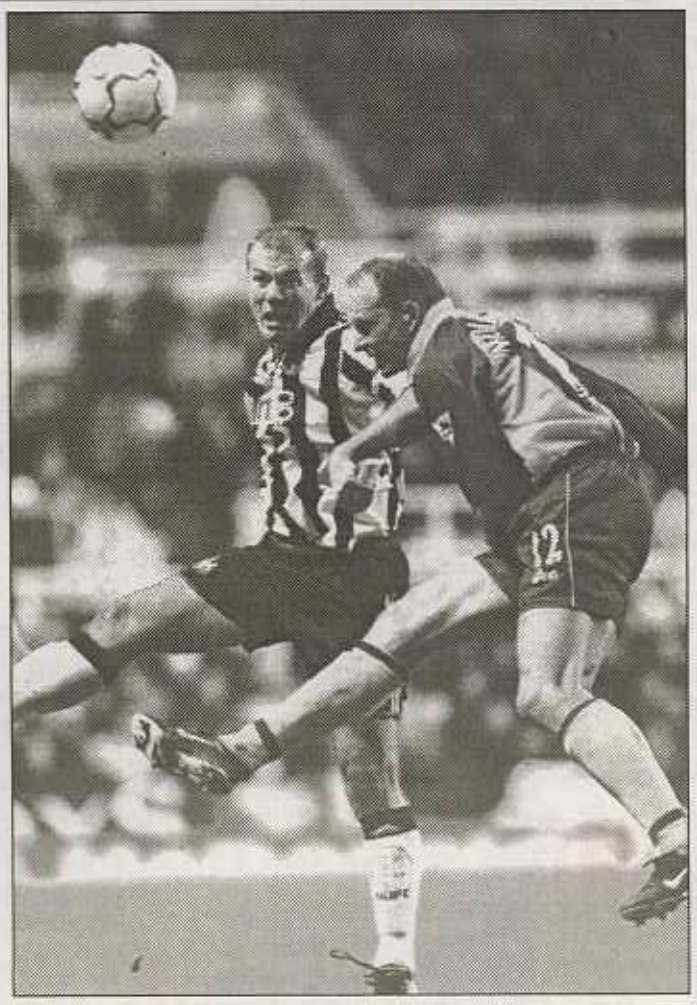
Ade Akinbiyi slid in for the equaliser in the 35th minute, Matt Elliot headed in a corner in the 79th and Arnar Gunnlaugsson chipped a deft third in the last minute.

MIDDLESBROUGH 1 CHELSEA 0

Bottom club Middlesbrough and Chelsea served up a poor afternoon's entertainment at the Riverside.

But the home fans went away happy after Dean Gordon's deflected shot in the 71st minute gave them their first home win of the season and lifted them above Bradford in the standings.

Chelsea have now gone 15 away games without a win.



Newcastle's Alan Shearer jumps for a header with Bradford's Robert Molenaar.

NEWCASTLE 2 BRADFORD 1

Gary Speed put Newcastle ahead with a shot from outside the box in the 14th minute and Kieron Dyer showed great pace to score the second in the 70th.

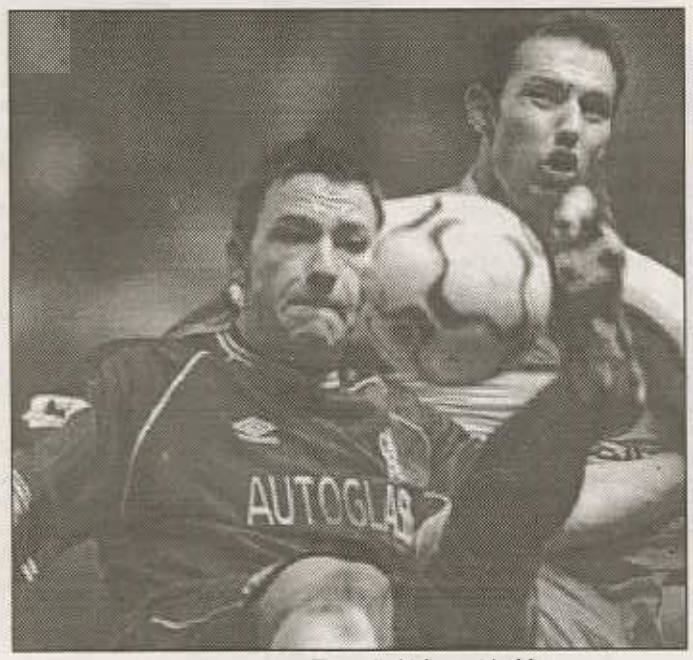
Bradford pulled one back with Robert Molenaar's far-post header 10 minutes from time but couldn't find a second, dropping to bottom place as a result.

MAN UNITED 0 LIVERPOOL 1

A Danny Murphy goal helped Liverpool end Manchester United's unbeaten run of 36 home games in the Premier League by securing a 1-0 win at Old Trafford.

Murphy curled home a 43rd minute free-kick from the edge of the area following a needless handball from United defender Gary Neville, whose team finished with only 10 men on the field after Luke Chadwick was marched in the 89th minute.

United, without regular strikers Andy Cole, Teddy Sheringham and Dwight Yorke through injury and suspension, failed to find any penetration with Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's two easily saved shots the best the Reds could muster.



Chelsea's John Terry (left) is tackled by Middlesborough's Noel Whelan.

MURPHY'S LAW

By Julian Murphy

Why all the fuss about Robbie Keane? With all the teams that have taken an interest in him of late, you'd think he was a proven, world-class striker. Some of the figures mentioned in relation to his value on the transfer market are almost ludicrous but I guess anything is reasonable at a time when a club from Yorkshire is prepared to pay 18 million pounds for Rio Ferdinand.

Rio's old club West Ham are the latest of a handful of Premiership clubs that have tried to lure Keane away from his current employers, Inter Milan. The sale of Rio has left the Upton Park club's coffers well and truly flushed but that didn't stop Inter from snubbing their 10 million pound offer for Keane last week.

Leeds United chairman Peter Risdale made a similar inquiry to that of the Hammers recently, which was also rejected, showing that he has been taking tips from Chelsea supremo Ken Bates on how to challenge Manchester United for the title. If Keane is worth almost twice as much as Mark Viduka, well, I'm in possession of a sweeter left peg than Ryan Giggs.

A stack of other clubs have also expressed an interest in Keane, whether it be as a purchase or on some sort of loan arrangement. These include Liverpool, old club Coventry, Celtic and, unsurprisingly, Chelsea.

Keane originally burst into the footballing limelight a couple of years ago with some standout performances for First Division side Wolverhampton. Premier League club Coventry almost sent themselves broke when they splashed out 6 million pounds a little over year ago to take the young lad to Highfield Road.

Keane's early form in the Premier League was definitely impressive, scoring a spectacular brace on debut, before he faded a little in the second half of the season.

The young bloke obviously still did enough to impress the scouts from Inter and he was on his way to Italy when the Milan club paid Coventry 12 million pounds, an offer they couldn't possibly refuse. Undoubtedly an exorbitant fee for Keane even if he is a player with great potential. Still, this price tag is small change for a club like Inter whose President, Massimo Moratti, sacks coaches on a whim and will buy just about anyone.

It was a move that young Robbie could hardly refuse and he went from playing with teammates such as Paul Telfer to lining up in the famous blue and black stripes with Christian Vieri, Laurent Blanc and Luigi Di Biagio. From all reports Keane has done as well as could be expected under inter coach Marco Tardelli, starting a few games even if he hasn't managed to get on the score sheet yet.

Unfortunately it's tough to see Keane getting too many starts in the near future, unless his club is hit by injuries en masse. He is already competing for a starting spot against the likes of Vieri, Hakan Sukur and the South American pairing of Ivan Zamorano and Alvaro Recoba. There is also the small matter of the return of some Brazilian bloke with a dodgy knee sometime after Christmas.

Moratti may look to off load Keane when the Italian transfer window opens in the New Year. He will probably highlight his shrewd business sense when he accepts an offer for Keane that is substantially less than the amount he paid for him. Another option for Keane could be a loan move to another Italian club.

This would give Keane the chance to play more first team football whilst remaining on the continent. Serie A cellar dwellers Reggina is one club that has been mentioned.

So who knows, Keane may be back in the Premiership before too long, scoring long range belters, getting sent off and squaring up to grizzled veterans like Bradford Cityis Stuart McCall who will respond as they did before, with a disdainful laugh. Keane's temperament could be a problem for whoever he ends up playing for.

All this speculation over a player that Alex Ferguson ('That lad would struggle to get in our reserves') said wasn't worth more than half a million quid when he moved to Coventry.

Best Of The Best

ZIDANE - THE WORLD'S BEST

French playmaker Zinedine Zidane won FIFA's World Player of the Year award last week for the second time in his career.

Zidane, winner in 1998 when he inspired France to the World Cup crown, was chosen ahead of Real Madrid's Portuguese midfielder Luis Figo in second and Barcelona's Brazilian striker Rivaldo in third.

AS Roma's Argentine striker Gabriel Batistuta was fourth and AC Milan's Ukranian forward Andriy Shevchenko was fifth.

Zidane, who plays for Juventus, garnered 370 points to Figo's 329 and Rivaldo's 263.

Votes were cast by 150 national team coaches who awarded five points to their first-choice player, three to their second and one to their third.

Some 59 coaches said Zidane was the best player of 2000 compared to 38 for Figo and 22 for Rivaldo, winner of the prestigious FIFA award in 1999.

Zidane becomes the second player after Brazilian Ronaldo in 1996 and 1997 to win the FIFA award twice.

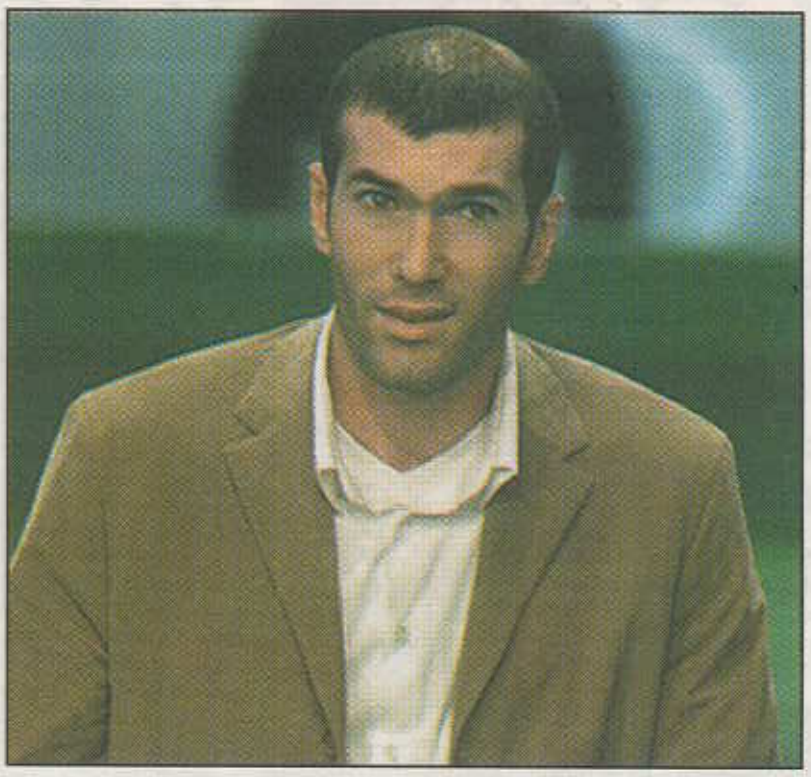
While his 1998 award was built on his success at the World Cup, where he scored two of France's goals in a 3-0 defeat of Brazil in the final, Zidane's latest award is tribute to his spell-binding performances at Euro 2000.

"This is a special award for me and an honour to be chosen ahead of two players like Figo and Rivaldo," Zidane said as he accepted his award at a gala ceremony.

"Maybe what made the difference was that we won the European championships."

He masterminded France's quarter-final defeat of Spain and then helped them past Portugal in the semis and Italy in a dramatic final in Rotterdam in which the French scored a last gasp equaliser before winning on a golden goal.

He was named player of the tournament and, for the first time in his career, was mentioned in the same breath as the likes of Pele, Diego Maradona and Johan Cruyff.



Zinedine Zidane of France receives the FIFA World Player 2000 award.

Zidane, a shy son of poor Algerian migrants, emerged from a high-rise block in working class Marseille to join French side Cannes in 1988.

He later signed for Bordeaux whom he helped to the 1996 UEFA Cup final before moving to Turin giants Juventus where he has emerged as the heir to Michel Platini.

The balding midfielder is not only an outstanding playmaker, he is also a fierce competitor who sometimes fails to control his temper.

He was dismissed for stamping on an opponent in the 1998 World Cup and sent off for headbutting a player in the Champions League this year.

Earlier in the night, Pele and Diego Maradona were awarded the "Player of the Century" award, with American Michelle Akers voted 'Female Player of the Century', China's Sun Wen awarded the internet voted 'Female Player of the Century' while Real Madrid voted the best club side of the century.

PREVIOUS WINNERS

1991 - Lothar Matthaeus (Germany, Inter Milan)
1992 - Marco van Basten (Netherlands, AC Milan)
1993 - Roberto Baggio (Italy, Juventus)
1994 - Romario (Brazil, Barcelona)
1995 - George Weah (Liberia, AC Milan)
1996 - Ronaldo (Brazil, Barcelona)
1997 - Ronaldo (Brazil, Inter Milan)
1998 - Zinedine Zidane (France, Juventus)
1999 - Rivaldo (Brazil, Barcelona)
2000 - Zinedine Zidane (France, Juventus)

MARADONA FUMING OVER VOTING SNUB

Argentine soccer legend Diego Maradona holds up the FIFA Player of the Century web-based award during the FIFA World Player of the Year awards in Rome.

Former Real Madrid player Alfredo Di Stefano (right) and Club President Florentino Perez (left) are presented the FIFA Club of the Century trophy by FIFA President Joseph Blatter.

Diego Maradona stoked his feud with his great Brazilian rival Pele by claiming to be the people's player of the century rather than the darling of the football establishment.

Maradona and Pele were both named "player of the century" at a glitzy awards ceremony organised by world soccer's governing body FIFA in Rome last week.

The Brazilian won the backing of FIFA's Football Family — officials, journalists and coaches -- while the Argentine topped a poll conducted by fans on the association's official website.

In what appeared to be a clear snub to Pele, Maradona left the gala early after collecting his own prize and before Pele took the stage to collect his.

"I would have liked to have had Maradona up here on stage with me but it looks like he's already gone," Pele said as he gestured towards the Argentine's empty front row seat. Maradona was unrepentant.

"I had the vote of the people. Pele won by the book," he told reporters, dismissing Brazilian claims that the web-based poll favoured him because it attracted younger voters who had seen him in action and not Pele.

"People who say that only young people voted on the Internet, those who didn't see Pele play, forget that children are not orphans," the former Napoli and Boca Juniors star said.

"There's always a father who buys the computer and perhaps influences their vote. I won the people's vote and I could not have betrayed the people by refusing to accept the award."

China's Sun Wen is presented the web-based FIFA Woman's Player of the Century trophy.

The parallel votes have sparked furious debate between Argentines and Brazilians and the stand-off between the two giants of world soccer came after weeks of rancour over the terms of the awards.

FIFA initially planned to name just one player of the century and Argentines were convinced Maradona had won it.

That outraged Brazilians who argued the web-based vote was unfair and claimed the Argentine Football Federation had led a concerted campaign to swing the vote Maradona's way.

FIFA, anxious to defuse the controversy, then announced on its website the award would be for a "player of the decade."

It then changed tack again and said the change was due to a typing error.

"It (the announcement on the website) should have read decades rather than decade," an association spokesman said, implying the terms of the vote never changed.

The two FIFA votes were literally polls apart.

Pele won a massive 72.75 percent of the Football Family vote to 9.75 percent for Argentine Alfredo Di Stefano and just six percent for Maradona.

Maradona took the web-based vote with 53.60 percent to only 18.53 percent for Pele.

When pressed at the awards ceremony, Pele declined to name the Argentine as the best player of the past century.

Maradona named Pele only alongside a host of other players -- Di Stefano, France's Michel Platini, Dutch maestro Johan Cruyff and Brazilian striker Rivaldo.

Brazilian soccer star Pele is presented the FIFA Player of the Century trophy from FIFA President Joseph Blatter (left).

American Michelle Akers holds her FIFA Woman's Player of the Century trophy.

HOULLIER DOWNGRADES OWEN AND FOWLER

Michael Owen: Houllier says he will get stronger as he gets older.

Liverpool boss Gerard Houllier believes that Robbie Fowler and Michael Owen are barely club heroes — let alone England saviours.

Houllier, who presently sees Emile Heskey as his number one striker, is convinced the duo must first prove themselves in the Premiership before even thinking about the international stage.

Owen, who turned 21 last Thursday, has played in the first team more often than Fowler this season yet Houllier says he has yet to be convinced that he, or Fowler, deserve a regular place in the team.

"Both, to me, are not fully international players yet, despite the caps they have," Houllier told *The Mirror.*

"I know that might sound strange, but they need to be training and playing regularly for this club before they are recognised as international players.

"Injuries have handicapped both of them. For Robbie it is going to be a long process. I have said it may take until the end of the season before he is back to his best.

"In Michael's case, he will get stronger as he gets older, providing he avoids injury."

Robbie Fowler: Yet to cement a regular starting spot.

RONALDO DENIES BEING OVER THE LIMIT

Brazilian striker Ronaldo has denied he had failed a drink-driving test in San Sebastian last week.

Spanish police said earlier that the player had been stopped and fined for the offence.

"A four-by-four vehicle, with a foreign number plate, was stopped at random by an alcohol control and it was being driven by Ronaldo," a spokesman for San Sebastian police said.

"A breath test was done and he was positive, with 0.29 milligrams of alcohol per litre." The spokesman said the legal limit in Spain is 0.25 milligrams but for new drivers, as is the case with Ronaldo, the limit is 0.15 milligrams.

"A fine of 18,000 pesetas ($95) was imposed and paid on the spot," the spokesman added.

Ronaldo gave his version of events on the official website of his Italian club Inter Milan.

"It was midnight, we were leaving a restaurant. My friend Cesar was driving as usual," he said.

"After about 50 metres, there was a patrol which was stopping all the cars. And they did the same with ours. A policewoman gave us the fine because, according to her, Cesar had exceeded a certain limit.

"It seemed strange to us, because we had drunk half a glass of wine at dinner. But I paid to avoid di cussion. There was a little group gathering around us, best to be avoided. So we left and Nilton Petrone, our physio, drove. That's it."

Spanish national radio had reported that the 24-year-old had travelled from a clinic just over the border in southern France to eat in the Basque city.

Ronaldo has been at the clinic for the past month and a half, recovering from the injury that has allowed him to play just six minutes of football this year.

Ronaldo: Denies claims of drink driving.

He missed the first five months of the year following a knee operation and was injured after only six minutes of his comeback in the Italian Cup final against Lazio in Rome when his knee collapsed again. He has not played since.

NAGATA CHASING MOVE TO ENGLAND

AS Roma's Japanese international midfielder Hidetoshi Nakata says he wants to leave the Serie A club for an English premier league outfit — preferably Manchester United.

"I'd like to play in England and where better than at a club that can win trophies — a club like Manchester United?" said the 23-year-old.

"Rome is a wonderful place, but it is suffocating me. I have no privacy and I need a change of country," he added.

"I know Roma wouldn't sell me to rival club in Serie A so I must look abroad."

Nakata moved from Perugia to Roma in January for $16 million (11 million pounds), a record for an Asian player.

Hidetoshi Nakata: Japanese star looking to leave Rome and move to England.

DEL PIERO JOINS LONG LIST OF INJURIES AT JUVE

Italian forward Alessandro Del Piero will be out for at least a month with the latest in a series of injuries, his club Juventus announced last week.

"He suffered a muscle injury to his right thigh and will be out for a 30 to 40 day period," Juventus club doctor Riccardo Agricola said on the club's website.

Del Piero, whose 1998 World Cup and 1998-99 season were ruined by successive injuries, will miss Juve's Serie A visit to league leaders AS Roma on the weekend before Christmas.

Juventus, runners up in last years Scudetto, have to endure with a growing injury list.

Defenders Mark Iuliano (hip) and Alessandro Birindelli (muscle strain) and midfielders Fabian O'Neill (right thigh), and Gianluca Pessotto (hamstring) are all receiving attention.

Alessandro Del Piero: Out for yet another month.

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WORLD

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

GROUP A

Manchester Utd	3	Panathinaikos	1
Valencia	2	Sturm Graz	0
Sturm Graz	0	Manchester Utd	2
		Paul Scholes 17 Ryan Giggs 89	
Panathinaikos	0	Valencia	0

Table

Manchester Utd	2	2	0	0	5	1	6
Valencia	2	1	1	0	2	0	4
Panathinaikos	2	0	1	1	1	3	1
Sturm Graz	2	0	0	2	0	4	0

Remaining Fixtures:

Wednesday, February 14
Sturm Graz v Panathinaikos
Valencia v Manchester United

Tuesday, February 20
Panathinaikos v Sturm Graz
Manchester United v Valencia

Wednesday, March 7
Sturm Graz v Valencia
Panathinaikos v Manchester United

Tuesday, March 13
Valencia v Panathinaikos
Manchester United v Sturm Graz

Valencia's Didier Deschamps, a key member of the Spanish teams chase for European title.

GROUP B

Paris St Germain	1	Deportivo Coruna	3
AC Milan	2	Galatasaray	2
Galatasaray	1	Paris St Germain	0
Umit Davala 51pen			
Deportivo Coruna	0	AC Milan	1
		Thomas Helveg 45	

Table

AC Milan	2	1	1	0	3	2	4
Galatasaray	2	1	1	0	3	2	4
Deportivo Coruna	2	1	0	1	3	2	3
Paris St Germain	2	0	0	2	1	4	0

Remaining Fixtures:

Wednesday, February 14
Galatasaray v Deportivo Coruna
AC Milan v Paris St Germain

Tuesday, February 20
Deportivo Coruna v Galatasaray
Paris St Germain v AC Milan

Wednesday, March 7
Galatasaray v AC Milan
Deportivo Coruna v Paris St Germain

Tuesday, March 13
AC Milan v Deportivo Coruna
Paris St Germain v Galatasaray

AC Milan's Thomas Helveg scorer of the winner against Depotivo la Coruna at the Riazor in Spain.

GROUP C

Spartak Moscow	4	Arsenal	1
Bayern Munich	1	Olympique Lyon	0
Olympique Lyon	3	Spartak Moscow	0
Steve Marlet 2 Sonny Anderson 31, 41			
Arsenal	2	Bayern Munich	2
Henry 3, Kanu 55		Tarnat 56, Scholl 66	

Table

Bayern Munich	2	1	1	0	3	2	4
Olympique Lyon	2	1	0	1	3	1	3
Spartak Moscow	2	1	0	1	4	4	3
Arsenal	2	0	1	1	3	6	1

Remaining Fixtures:

Tuesday, February 13
Olympique Lyon v Arsenal
Bayern Munich v Spartak Moscow

Wednesday, February 21
Arsenal v Olympique Lyon
Spartak Moscow v Bayern Munich

Tuesday, March 6
Olympique Lyon v Bayern Munich
Arsenal v Spartak Moscow

Wednesday, March 14
Bayern Munich v Arsenal
Spartak Moscow v Olympique Lyon

Arsenal striker Theirry Henry celebrates scoring the opener against Bayern Munich at Highbury.

GROUP D

Leeds United	0	Real Madrid	2
Anderlecht	1	Lazio	0
Real Madrid	4	Anderlecht	1
Morientes 12 Luis Figo 23pen Helguera 44 Roberto Carlos 73		Alin Stoica 89	
Lazio	0	Leeds United	1
		Alan Smith 80	

Table

Real Madrid	2	2	0	0	6	1	6
Leeds United	2	1	0	1	1	2	3
Anderlecht	2	1	0	1	2	4	3
Lazio	2	0	0	2	0	2	0

Remaining Fixtures:

Tuesday, February 13
Real Madrid v Lazio
Leeds United v Anderlecht

Wednesday, February 21
Lazio v Real Madrid
Anderlecht v Leeds United

Tuesday, March 6
Real Madrid v Leeds United
Lazio v Anderlecht

Wednesday, March 14
Leeds United v Lazio
Anderlecht v Real Madrid

Real Madrid's Luis Figo is congratulated after scoring against Anderlecht.

SECOND PHASE

November 21/22 to March 13/14, 2001

QUARTER-FINAL

First Leg — April 3/4
Second Leg — April 17/18, 2001

SEMI-FINAL

First Leg — May 1/2
Second Leg — May 8/9, 2001

FINAL

Wednesday, May 23
In Milan

WORLD

FIFA

World Rankings

(Valid until December 20)

FIFA founded 1904

1	Brazil	69	Congo DR	136=	Luxemburg
2	France	70	Kuwait	138	Lesotho
3	Argentina	71	China PR	139	Fiji
4	Czech Republic	72	Estonia	140	Grenada
5	Italy	73	Burkina Faso	141=	Ethiopia
6	Spain	74	Australia	141=	Tajikistan
7	Portugal	74	FYR Macedonia	143	Korea DPR
8	Germany	76	Cuba	144	Liechtenstein
9	Yugoslavia	76	Bosnia-Herzegovina	145	Andorra
10	Netherlands	78	Guinea	146	St Kitts & Nevis
11	Mexico	79	Lithuania	147=	Antigua and Barbuda
12	Paraguay	80	Iraq	147=	Benin
13	Romania	81	Albania	149	Bangladesh
14	Norway	82	Algeria	150	Dominica
15	Colombia	83	Togo	151=	Botswana
16=	England	84	Haiti	151=	Sri Lanka
16=	Croatia	85	Congo	153	Bermuda
18	United States	86	Namibia	154	Maldives
19	Chile	87	Senegal	155	Gambia
20	Scotland	88	Gabon	156	Dominican Republic
21	Russia	89	El Salvador	157	Cape Verde Islands
22	Sweden	90	Northern Ireland	158	Cayman Islands
23	South Africa	90	Armenia	159	Yemen
24	Denmark	92	New Zealand	160	Mauritania
25	Tunisia	93	Mali	161	Chinese Taipei
26	Belgium	94	Latvia	162	Chad
27	Slovakia	95	Liberia	163=	Surinam
28=	Morocco	95	Belarus	163=	Eritrea
28=	Turkey	97	Moldova	165	Laos
30	Trinidad & Tobago	98	Vietnam SR	166	Nepal
31	Ukraine	99	Qatar	167=	Vanuatu
32	Egypt	100	Singapore	167=	Cambodia
33	Ireland Republic	101	Syria	169	San Marino
34	Japan	102	Barbados	170	Cook Islands
35	Saudi Arabia	103	Uganda	171	Palestine
36=	Uruguay	104=	Jordan	172	British Virgin Is.
36=	Israel	104=	Indonesia	173	Samoa
38	Slovenia	106	Kenya	174	Netherlands Antilles
39	Korea Republic	107	Wales	175	Kyrgyzstan
40=	Iran	108	Oman	176	Guinea-Bissau
40=	Cameroon	109	Malaysia	176	Central African Rep.
42=	Greece	110	Lebanon	178	Bahamas
42=	Austria	111	Venezuela	179=	Sao Tome e Principe
44	Poland	112	Mozambique	179=	Macao
45	Peru	113	Malawi	181	Niger
46	Jamaica	114	Azerbaijan	182=	Philippines
47	Zambia	115	Madagascar	182=	Guyana
48	Hungary	116=	Faroe Islands	184	Tonga
49	Iceland	116=	India	185	Aruba
50	Honduras	118=	Malta	186	Belize
51	Nigeria	118=	Mauritius	187	Equatorial Guinea
52	Cote d' Ivoire	120	Libya	188	Seychelles
53	Angola	121	Kazakhstan	189	Pakistan
54	Bulgaria	122	Panama	190	Nicaragua
55	Finland	123	Myanmar	191	Papua New Guinea
56	Costa Rica	124	Turkmenistan	192	Djibouti
56	Ghana	125	St Vincent/Gr	193	Brunei Darussalam
58	Ecuador	126	Sierra Leone	194	Puerto Rico
59	Switzerland	127	Rwanda	195	Somalia
60	UAE	128	Hong Kong	196	Mongolia
61	Guatemala	129	Burundi	197	Anguilla
62	Thailand	130=	Tahiti	197	US Virgin Islands
63	Canada	130=	Sudan	199	Turks and Caicos Is
64	Georgia	132	Solomon Islands	200=	Bhutan
65	Uzbekistan	133	St Lucia	200=	Guam
66	Bolivia	134	Bahrain	202	Montserrat
67	Cyprus	135	Swaziland	203	American Samoa
68	Zimbabwe	136=	Tanzania		

***Note:** Teams inactive since 1991 and teams which have not played yet to do not appear in the table.*

UEFA CUP

Liverpool and Roma in repeat of 1984

Gabriel Batistuta: Roma's deadly striker.

Liverpool face an almighty challenge in the Fourth Round of the UEFA Cup, having drawn Serie A leaders Roma.

Roma, who were knocked out of the same competition last season at the quarter-final stage by Leeds United, have stormed the Italian league this season.

Leading the charge has been Gabriel Batistuta, a £22million summer signing from Fiorentina. Alongside Francesco Totti and Marco Delvecchio, 'Batigol' has transformed coach Fabio Capello's team into genuine title contenders.

The two clubs have history between them, as Liverpool beat Roma in the 1984 European Cup Final on penalties — in Roma's own Stadio Olimpico.

The structure of the draw means that the winners of the tie will play the winners of the Porto versus Nantes tie.

Elsewhere in the draw, Spanish giants Barcelona face AEK Athens, while Rangers' conquerors in the last round, Kaiserslautern, face Slavia Prague.

Liverpool, the last British club left in the competition, will play the first leg of the tie at home.

Fourth Round

1. Porto (Portugal) v Nantes (France)
2. AEK Athens (Greece) v Barcelona (Spain)
3. VfB Stuttgart (Germany) v Celta Vigo (Spain)
4. Liverpool (England) v AS Roma (Italy)
5. Alaves (Spain) v Inter Milan (Italy)
6. PSV Eindhoven (Netherlands) v Parma (Italy)
7. Slavia Prague (Czech Republic) v Kaiserslautern (Germany)
8. Rayo Vallecano (Spain) v Girondins Bordeaux (France)

First leg - February 15
Second leg - February 22
Quarter-finals

Winner match 7 v Winner match 6
Winner match 2 v Winner match 3
Winner match 5 v Winner match 8
Winner match 1 v Winner match 4

First leg - March 8
Second leg - March 15

Van der Gouw headed to US?

Manchester United's Dutch goalkeeper Raimond Van der Gouw says he may join a U.S. team when his contract at the English Premier League club ends next summer.

"I'm open to another exciting adventure. There have been signs of interest coming from America," he told a Dutch newspaper *Algemeen Dagblad.*

The 37-year-old, who joined the English champions from Vitesse Arnhem in July 1996, is currently behind Frenchman Fabien Barthez in the pecking order at Old Trafford.

"I would naturally need to discuss it with my family, but I would certainly love to play in Florida.

"I've still got several good years in me. Another possibility would be to go back to the Netherlands," he added.

Van der Gouw played last weekend in the 3-3 draw at Charlton and still has not written off his chances of remaining in Manchester.

"It's an honour to play for Manchester United. They are such a big club and I'm surprised that sometimes people don't realise that," he said.

"I've picked up a few signals that they still want to keep me. I spoke to the assistant manager (Steve McLaren) and he said that the club's bosses were very pleased with me," he added.

Raimond Van der Gouw

Emmanuel Petit: Losing patience by sitting on the bench at Barca.

PETIT LOSING APPETITE TO PAY FOOTBALL

Barcelona's French international Emmanuel Petit says that spending so much time on the bench is making him lose his appetite for football.

"Now that I have spent five months here I ask myself why Barcelona signed me... I am beginning to lose my passion for football," the former Arsenal midfielder said in an interview with Barcelona-based sports paper *El Mundo Deportivo.*

"It is like being injured for four or five months. You lose your patience, you don't concentrate on the game and when you return you are angry with your football."

Petit has failed to win a regular place in the team and has had to play out of position on the left side of defence on a number of occasions.

"It is no secret that I am frustrated — just as some of my teammates are — because I am not playing, and when I do play it isn't in my usual position.

"I am not complaining nor I am saying that the boss isn't doing his job well. It is usual in this job for you to have to put up with the highs and lows. But right now I am disappointed and that's it," he said.

Petit, who helped France win the 1998 World Cup and Euro 2000, said he does not want to leave club, but does not want to sit out the season on the bench.

"Of course I don't want to go," he said. "But I am a winner and I need competition."

Lizarazu blackmailed by Basque separatists

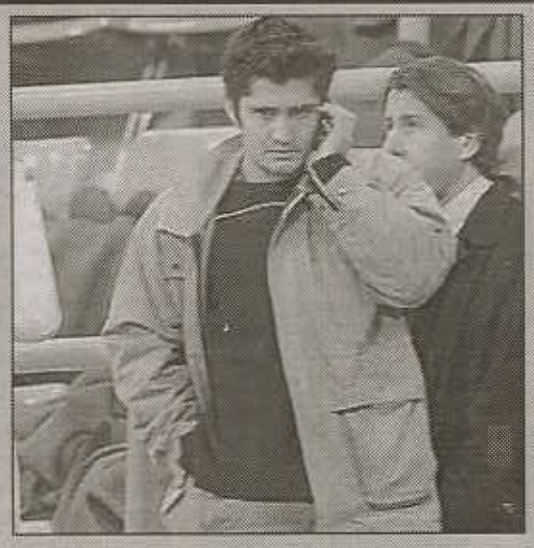
Basque separatist group ETA has told French international and Bayern Munich, player Bixente Lizarazu to give them financial help or face the consequences, Europe 1 radio said.

A police source confirmed that the parents of the wing back, whose home town on France's Basque coast is just a stone's throw from the Spanish border, received a threatening letter dated September and postmarked Paris.

Part of it read: "You have been well paid to wear the shirt of an oppressor with money stolen from the Basque people and Basque region. Given these enemy payments, ETA is writing to you because it has big economic needs to continue its fight."

A police spokesman said the letter carried the initials of ETA and inquiries were continuing.

Lizarazu was born in the Basque town of Saint-Jean-de-Luzand turned professional with Athletico Bilbao.



Bixente Lizarazu: Being blackmailed by the Basque separatist group, ETA.

Ferguson wants new deals for Sheringham and Irwin

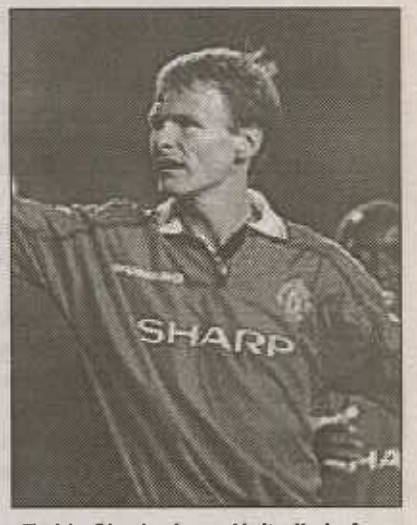
Coach Alex Ferguson called on Manchester United to renew the contracts of veterans Teddy Sheringham and Denis Irwin.

Both men are in their mid-30s and signed one-year deals last July.

But the pair have been rolling back the years this season, helping United to go top of both the premier league and their group in the Champions League second stage.

Ferguson told the *Manchester Evening News:* "I want them to stay because of the experience they give us.

"They've both got that in abundance and both of them have kept themselves in great physical shape.



Teddy Sheringham: United's in form striker.

Denis Irwin: Coach Alex Ferguson pushing for a contract extension for the Irishman.

You need to have that to play here."

Sheringham, 34, is United's top scorer this season with 15 goals in all competitions. In October, his form earned him an England recall for their World Cup qualifier against Finland.

Sheringham will always be remembered for coming on as a late substitute to score an injury-time equaliser in United's 1999 European Cup final victory over Bayern Munich, minutes before fellow-sub Ole Gunnar Solskjaer hit the winner.

Irwin, signed in 1990 and now 35, has enjoyed little of the media spotlight.

However, the Irishman's consistent and dependable play at the back has been a key to the English champions' success over the past decade.

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HOULLIER DEFENDS ROTATION POLICY

Liverpool coach Gerard Houllier turned on his critics last week, insisting he was right to keep rotating players like Emile Heskey and Michael Owen.

The Frenchman has taken flak after saving in-form Heskey until the 60th minute before sending him on for Owen in their 1-0 home defeat to Ipswich last weekend.

But Houllier told Liverpool's website he had a duty not to over-play his young players and singled out Heskey, who has blossomed this season with 10 league goals, as an example.

"Six months ago, everybody was asking why I had bought Emile Heskey because we already had Robbie Fowler and Michael Owen at the club," he said.

"Now they are asking why I put Emile on the bench for one game. You never win, but that is something you have to live with.

"People need to look at our situation with a wider perspective. I think Michael and Robbie have picked up a lot of injuries because they were over-played when they were younger.

"Since I have been here, Michael has played an average of one game in two and Robbie hasn't played that many games in two years, either. I've got plenty of young players here and I have to be careful with them."

Gerard Houllier: Defends his rotation policy at Anfield.

The Liverpool chief added: "What people say will not affect my policy or my line ... because I firmly believe that this is a long-term management."

RADEBE REFUSES BENCH ROLE

Lucas Radebe has insisted that he will not settle for being the victim of Rio Ferdinand's £18million arrival at Leeds.

While he will not demand immediate talks with Leeds manager David O'Leary, he is concerned about his Elland Road future following the signing of fellow central defender Ferdinand from West Ham.

South African Radebe's restlessness was partially counterbalanced for O'Leary with the news that David Batty is ready to return after a 12-month absence and is pushing for first team selection.

But the first stirrings of discontent from Radebe will be a significant concern for the Leeds boss, as the player — FIFA Fair Play Award winner for work combating racism in South Africa — revealed he will not settle for a bench role.

Radebe, 31 said: "I think the gaffer wanted to rest me a bit, but if he wants to play with two centre halves and they are Jon (Woodgate) and Rio that could be a problem for me.

"I want the club to do well, because that's good for me, and the competition is healthy and keeps all of us on our toes. But you can't be happy sitting on the bench."

If Radebe is unsettled, several Premiership rivals will be keen to step in.

Chief among those would be Tottenham, where George Graham is planning for life after Sol Campbell, and Radebe added: "I'm aware George would like to take me to Spurs. I've been settled at Leeds. I've loved playing for the club and have achieved a lot here. It's great to see we're achieving things and moving in the right direction.

Lucas Radebe: Insisting he will not be relegated to the bench after the transfer of Rio Ferdinand.

"But I'm a professional, I know I'm not a young man any more, and I want to be in the first team. At this stage I can't afford to be on the bench. I've only got so many years left in my career."

Radebe added: 'The manager will tell me if he's not going to play me, and why. I respect him and I think he respects me and I hope that's the way we'll go on.

"I've got two years left on my contract. The club have already spoken to me about a new deal so it isn't a case of me knocking on the manager's door but if nothing happens, there might be other doors open to me somewhere else."

The message was clear and O'Leary will not ignore it, especially with Woodgate being ruled out for a minimum of five weeks in the New Year when he and Lee Bowyer answer assault charges.

SA PINTO TO MISS SIX MONTHS

Sporting Lisbons Portuguese international striker Ricardo Sa Pinto needs surgery on his right knee and could be out of the game for six months.

Sa Pinto damaged ligaments in his knee in Sporting's 2-1 victory over Belenenses in the Portuguese first division last weekend. Sporting are currently third in the league.

Rangers seek injury pay for van Bronckhorst

Rangers has confirmed they would seek compensation from the Dutch Football Association (KNVB) for the injury which has ruined Giovanni van Bronckhorst's season.

The Scottish champions are preparing an insurance claim — reported to be about 500,000 pounds — over the damaged groin which the midfielder sustained while on World Cup duty for Holland in October.

Rangers have been without van Bronckhorst, 25, for the last two months and the former Feyenood player has now undergone an operation that will keep him out of action until February at the earliest.

Ironically, van Bronckhorst sustained the injury in a tackle in training with Rangers' team mate, Fernando Ricksen, as they prepared for the World Cup qualifying tie with Cyprus.

But Rangers manager Dick Advocaat — who was coach of the Netherlands in the 1994 World Cup Finals — insists that the club are entitled to financial compensation from the KNVB for the loss of his key player.

Giovanni van Bronckhorst: Out of action after a training mishap with the national team.

"It is normally the case that international football authorities have an insurance policy and I don't see the Dutch FA being any different.

"We have not approached the Dutch FA yet but Giovanni needed another operation and it happened while he was away with their national team.

"I am not hopeful we will get compensation — I know we will."

Van Bronckhorst has only played for 53 minutes in a Champions League match at Sturm Graz since the injury, despite more than a month of rehabilitation at the Dutch FA clinic at Zeist.

Rangers did not discuss a sum, though the Daily Mail claimed it could amount to 500,000 pounds.

Advocaat said: "There is so much money involved now with players' wages so the national associations have to take care of that.

"The Dutch FA is a very rich federation with all the international games it plays, and anyway they don't have to pay, it's the insurance company who has to cover the cost."

TV GUIDE

 # All times are Australian Eastern Standard Summer Time

TUESDAY DECEMBER 19

English Premier League
Tottenham vs Arsenal (LIVE)
Fox Sports
6am — 9.30am

English Premier League
Tottenham vs Arsenal
Fox Sports
3pm — 5pm
11pm — 1am

Futbol Mundial
SBS TV
4pm — 4.30pm

WEDNESDAY DEC 20

Soccer Scene
Fox Sports
8.30pm — 10pm

Soccer Central
Optus (C7 Sport 12)
7.30pm — 8.30pm

European Soccer Show
Optus (C7 Sport 12)
10pm — 11pm

SATURDAY DEC 23

Spanish Primera Liga
Fox Sports 2
11.30am — 1.30pm

English Premier League
Highlights
SBS TV
5.30pm — 6.30pm

English Premier League
Preview
Fox Sports 2
7pm — 7.30pm

English Premier League
Liverpool vs Arsenal (LIVE)
Fox Sports
10pm — 1am

English Premier League
Classic Matches
Fox Sports
1am — 1.55am
(Sunday Morning)

English Premier League
Teams TBA (LIVE)
Fox Sports
1.55am — 4am
(Sunday Morning)

Spanish Primera Liga
Fox Sports
4am — 6am
(Sunday Morning)

SUNDAY DECEMBER 24

Italian Serie A
Teams TBA (LIVE)
Optus (ESPN)
6.25am — 8.30am

Italian Serie A
SBS TV
10.30am — 11.30am

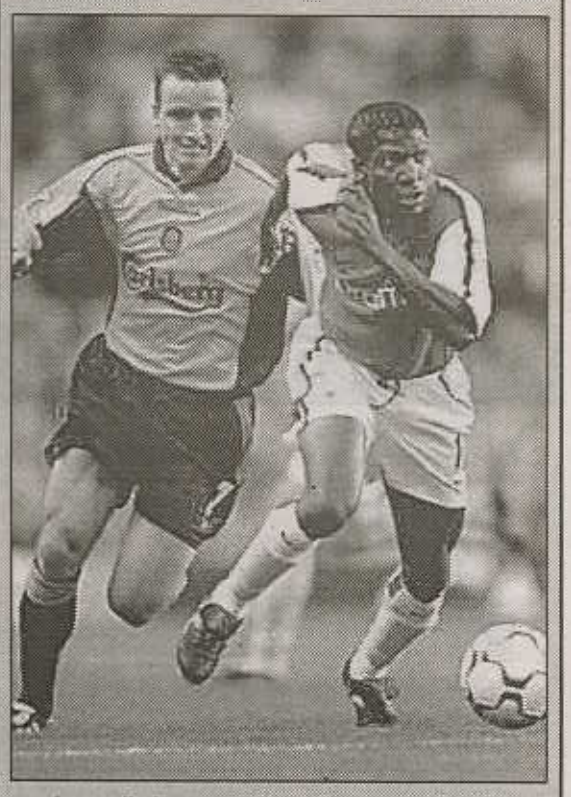
English Premier League
Highlights of overnight matches
Fox Sports
12pm — 4pm

MONDAY DECEMBER 25

Italian Serie A
Teams TBA (LIVE)
Optus (ESPN)
6.25am — 8.30am

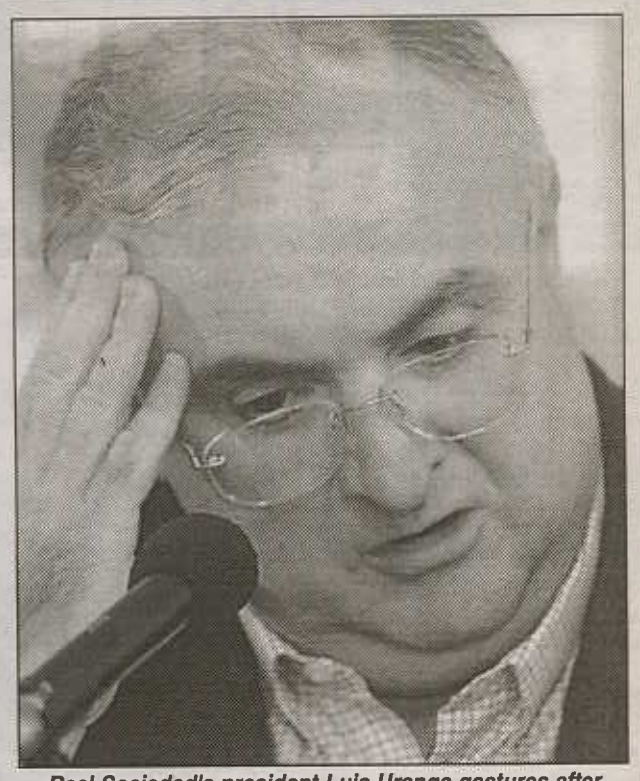
English Premier League
Highlights
Fox Sports
4pm — 5pm

English Premier League
Highlights
SBS TV
7.30pm — 8.30pm



Arsenal's Lauren eludes Liverpool's Vladimir Smicer during their opening meeting this year. The return leg will be this Saturday.

SOCIEDAD PRESIDENT AND BOARD QUIT



Real Sociedad's president Luis Uranga gestures after announcing his decision to resign his position as president of the club.

Real Sociedad president Luis Uranga said he and his board of directors had decided to resign because of the club's poor performance over the last two seasons.

Uranga, who has been club president since 1992, said that he and the board members would quit on March 23 next year.

"I would have liked to have stayed in power for 10 years but my period in office has been cut short because of the state in which the club finds itself and in particular the performance of the team," Uranga said in a statement.

"My decision has been taken for the good of the club and it is irrevocable. I and my board will be leaving on March 23 and from then on I will be staying at home."

The 50-year-old businessman said the delay was to allow candidates for the presidency to prepare submissions to an extraordinary general meeting of the club on March 23.

Real Sociedad sacked their manager Javier Clemente after a string of poor results earlier this season but the appointment of new coach Periko Alonso has not brought an improvement.

The Basque club are 19th in the 20-team first division with just 12 points from 14 matches. They were embarrassingly knocked out of Spain's King's Cup last week after losing 2-1 to third division Beasain.

ATLETICO MADRID DENY DAUM RUMOURS

Christoph Daum, discarded as the next Germany coach for failing a drugs test, says he has been asked to coach Spanish second division Atletico Madrid -- but the club are denying they want him.

"It is a concrete offer and they want me to join straight away but I have decided to start working again only next summer," Daum told Bild newspaper.

The former Spanish champions, who were relegated last season and are currently struggling in the second division, have rubbished his claims.

"I don't know where this came from, but it is totally false.

Nobody has rung Daum," said Atletico director general Miguel Angel Gil Marin on his web site deporweb.com.

He added that present coach Marcos Alonso still had the confidence of the club.

Daum, who left Germany for Florida after failing a drugs test last October, is considering several offers, including one to coach Iran.

The 47-year-old, who resigned as Bayer Leverkusen coach and

was ruled out of the national job he had been due to take over next summer, said he

Christoph Daum: Not being chased by Atletico Madrid.

expected to remain in Florida for a while to work on a project to set up a training centre.

"After that I will return to Germany as soon as possible and I will answer all the questions which remain open," he said on his personal website.

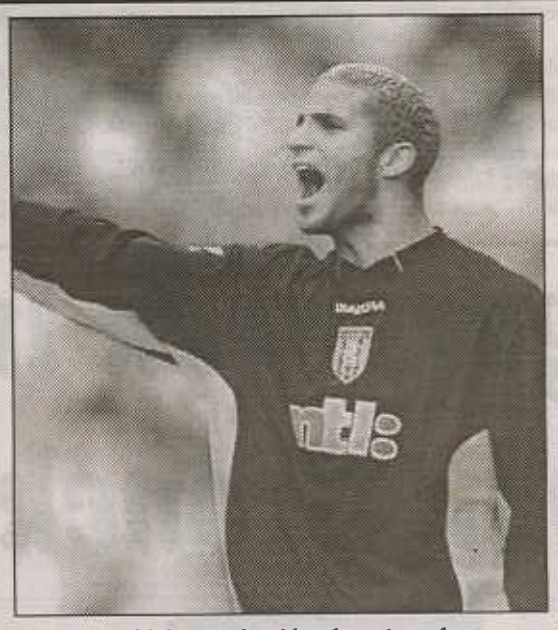
JAMES WANTS OUT

England goalkeeper David James has asked for a transfer from Aston Villa.

James, who joined the Midlands club from Liverpool for 1.8 million pounds in June 1999, has been in contract talks with the club but rejected the new deal he was offered.

Club spokesman Phil Mepham said on the Villa website: "Everybody here was frustrated and somewhat surprised by David's request for a transfer.

"The board and he and his representatives sat around a table and to all intents and purposes verbally agreed an extension and improvement to his contract.



David James: Looking for a transfer.

"As yet he hasn't put pen to paper on that and that is disappointing."

Villa fans have been aggrieved that the club seems reluctant to spend big money on new players and James is reported to be similarly frustrated by what he perceives as a lack of ambition.

After an impressive start to the season, the 30-year-old won his second England cap in last month's 1-0 friendly defeat in Italy.

He becomes the second big-name player to ask for a move from Villa Park following Gareth Southgate, who has played all season despite handing in a summer transfer request.

BERG RETURNS TO BLACKBURN

Norwegian international centre back Henning Berg has moved back to Blackburn Rovers from Manchester United for 1.75 million pounds.

Berg, 31, a member of Blackburn's 1995 title-winning team, moved to United two years later and won further championship medals in 1999 and 2000 although injury kept him out of their European Cup triumph in 1999.

This season he has played only 45 minutes of football in the Premier League, coming on as a second half substitute against West Ham on August 26, and has spent the last four months on loan at Blackburn.

He has now signed a permanent deal through to the summer of 2001 with an option for another year.

John Williams, Blackburn's chief executive said he was delighted the player had rejoined the club.

"To get Henning to join us is a great boost for the club," he said.

Blackburn are currently ninth in the first division after being relegated in 1999.

Berg began his career with Valerenga and then played for Lillestrom before joining Blackburn originally in 1993.

DALGLISH AWARDED COMPENSATION FROM CELTIC

Kenny Dalglish: Playing for Celtic in a pre-season testimonial.

Former Celtic director of football Kenny Dalglish was awarded more than 600,000 pounds in compensation following his sacking by the Scottish club in June.

Dalglish had been claiming almost a million pounds but *BBC Radio* reported that after a five minute hearing at the court of appeal in Edinburgh his lawyers accepted the lower figure.

In 1999 Dalglish had returned to the club where he made his name as a player, working with former England international John Barnes.

When Barnes was sacked midway through last season Dalglish took over team affairs but had his contract terminated four months later.

NZ OUT OF INDIA SERIES

New Zealand has pulled out of an international soccer tournament scheduled for India in January, saying it had had difficulty confirming travel and competition details with organisers.

New Zealand Soccer said it had been advised by the Asian Football Confederation to withdraw from the Millennium Super Soccer Cup.

The national body said the tournament had been seen as important preparation for New Zealand's World Cup qualifying games in Auckland in June and it would now seek alternative warm up matches.

The All India Football Federation unveiled the Millennium Super Soccer Cup in August, saying Uruguay, Chile, Colombia and Cameroon were among 16 nations expected to take part. Games are scheduled for Calcutta, Goa and Cochin.

ABSW

WORLD

WORLD RESULTS...WORLD RESULTS...WORLD RESULTS...

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Manchester United 0 Liverpool 1, Aston Villa 2 Manchester City 2, Derby County 1 Coventry City 0, Everton 1 West Ham United 1, Ipswich Town 3 Southampton 1, Leeds United 2 Sunderland 0, Leicester City 3 Charlton Athletic 1, Middlesbrough 1 Chelsea 0, Newcastle United 2 Bradford City 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Manchester United	**18**	**12**	**4**	**2**	**44**	**14**	**40**
2. Arsenal	17	10	4	3	29	13	34
3. Ipswich Town	18	10	3	5	27	18	33
4. Leicester City	18	9	5	4	20	14	32
5. Liverpool	18	9	3	6	33	24	30
6. Sunderland	18	8	5	5	18	18	29
7. Newcastle United	18	8	3	7	20	22	27
8. West Ham United	18	6	8	4	24	19	26
9. Aston Villa	17	6	8	3	21	16	26
10. Leeds United	17	7	4	6	24	23	25
11. Tottenham Hotspur	17	7	3	7	25	26	24
12. Chelsea	18	6	5	7	32	25	23
13. Charlton Athletic	18	6	4	8	25	30	22
14. Everton	18	6	4	8	20	29	22
15. Southampton	18	5	5	8	23	31	20
16. Manchester City	18	5	3	10	25	32	18
17. Derby County	18	3	7	8	21	35	16
18. Coventry City	18	4	3	11	16	33	15
19. Middlesbrough	18	3	5	10	20	28	14
20. Bradford City	18	2	6	10	13	30	12

LEADING SCORERS

12 - Mark Viduka (Leeds United)

11 - Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink (Chelsea), Teddy Sheringham (Manchester United)

10 - Emile Heskey (Liverpool), Thierry Henry (Arsenal), Marcus Stewart (Ipswich Town)

8 - James Beattie (Southampton)

7 - Michael Owen (Liverpool), David Beckham (Manchester United), Paolo di Canio (West Ham United), Jonatan Johansson (Charlton Athletic), Paulo Wanchope (Manchester City)

6 - Marians Pahars (Southampton), Alan Smith (Leeds United), Andy Cole (Manchester United), Les Ferdinand (Tottenham Hotspur), Gianfranco Zola (Chelsea), Malcolm Christie (Derby County)

5 - Francis Jeffers (Everton), Alen Boksic (Middlesbrough), Alan Shearer (Newcastle United), Kevin Phillips (Sunderland), Dio Dublin (Aston Villa)

4 - Branko Strupar (Derby County), Andy Hunt (Charlton Athletic), Serhiy Rebrov (Tottenham Hotspur), Graham Stuart (Charlton Athletic), Niall Quinn (Sunderland), Kevin Campbell (Everton), Paul Scholes (Manchester United), Paul Dickov (Manchester City), Ole Gunnar Solskjaer (Manchester United), Craig Bellamy (Leicester City), Lee Bowyer (Leeds United), Ade Akinbiyi (Leicester City), Gary Speed (Newcastle United), Frederic Kanoute (West Ham United)

ENGLISH FIRST DIVISION

Burnley 0 Blackburn 2, Wolverhampton 0 Birmingham 1, Crewe 1 Crystal Palace 1, Fulham 3 Tranmere 1, Gillingham 4 Preston 0, Grimsby 2 Norwich 0, Portsmouth 1 Huddersfield 1, Queens Park Rangers 1 Nottingham Forest 0, Sheffield United 1 Sheffield Wednesday 1, Stockport 2 Barnsley 0, Watford 3 West Bromwich 3, Wimbledon 0 Bolton 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Fulham	**22**	**17**	**4**	**1**	**53**	**16**	**55**
2. Bolton	23	13	6	4	38	22	45
3. Birmingham	22	13	4	5	33	21	43
4. West Bromwich	23	12	5	6	32	27	41
5. Watford	21	12	4	5	41	25	40
6. Blackburn	22	11	6	5	33	22	39
7. Nottingham Forest	23	12	3	8	34	26	39
8. Preston	22	11	5	6	28	26	38
9. Burnley	22	11	5	6	25	24	38
10. Sheffield United	23	10	6	7	25	23	36
11. Wimbledon	23	8	7	8	32	26	31
12. Crystal Palace	23	7	6	10	32	34	27
13. Portsmouth	23	6	9	8	25	29	27
14. Barnsley	23	7	5	11	26	34	26
15. Gillingham	23	6	7	10	29	34	25
16. Wolverhampton	23	5	8	10	22	27	23
17. Tranmere	23	6	5	12	27	36	23
18. Norwich	22	6	5	11	19	29	23
19. Stockport	23	5	7	11	30	41	22
20. Grimsby	22	6	4	12	20	32	22
21. Sheffield Wednesday	23	6	4	13	29	43	22
22. Crewe	23	6	4	13	18	32	22
23. Queens Park Rangers	22	3	11	8	24	35	20
24. Huddersfield	23	4	6	13	22	33	18

ENGLISH SECOND DIVISION

Bournemouth2 Swansea 0, Bristol Rovers 0 Stoke 3, Bury 1 Oldham 1, Luton 0 Colchester 3, Millwall 2 Walsall 0, Notts County 3 Reading 2, Oxford Utd 3 Northampton 1, Port Vale 1 Bristol City 2, Swindon 2 Rotherham 1, Wigan 2 Wycombe 1, Wrexham 2 Brentford 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Millwall	**21**	**13**	**3**	**5**	**40**	**19**	**42**
2. Wigan	21	11	9	1	29	17	42
3. Walsall	21	12	5	4	37	21	41
4. Rotherham	21	12	4	5	37	26	40
5. Reading	20	11	2	7	42	25	35
6. Bristol City	21	9	7	5	34	19	34
7. Stoke	20	9	6	5	33	23	33
8. Wycombe	21	8	6	7	21	20	30
9. Wrexham	21	8	5	8	32	34	29
10. Peterborough	21	8	4	9	24	26	28
11. Northampton	20	8	4	8	22	24	28
12. Colchester	21	7	6	8	21	21	27
13. Notts County	20	8	3	9	24	33	27
14. Brentford	19	6	8	5	22	30	26
15. Bournemouth	20	6	7	7	31	24	25
16. Cambridge Utd	21	6	7	8	30	31	25
17. Bury	20	7	4	9	19	28	25
18. Bristol Rovers	20	5	8	7	24	23	23
19. Oldham	20	6	5	9	23	32	23
20. Swindon	21	6	5	10	21	38	23
21. Port Vale	19	5	5	9	22	26	20
22. Swansea	20	4	7	9	19	27	19
23. Luton	20	3	6	11	20	36	15
24. Oxford Utd	21	3	2	16	22	46	11

ENGLISH THIRD DIVISION

Barnet 4 Scunthorpe 2, Blackpool 3 Exeter 0, Cardiff 3 Cheltenham 1, Halifax 0 Hartlepool 1, Hull 1 Torquay 2, Leyton Orient 1 Darlington 0, Lincoln City 1 Rochdale 1, Macclesfield 1 Carlisle 0, Mansfield 2 Brighton 0, Plymouth 1 York 0, Shrewsbury OFF Kidderminster, Southend 3 Chesterfield 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Chesterfield	**22**	**14**	**6**	**2**	**49**	**22**	**48**
2. Brighton	21	13	3	5	37	18	42
3. Leyton Orient	21	11	6	4	31	25	39
4. Cardiff	20	10	8	2	41	24	38
5. Rochdale	20	10	7	3	29	17	37
6. Cheltenham	21	10	4	7	28	23	34
7. Southend	21	8	8	5	26	24	32
8. Scunthorpe	21	9	4	8	29	20	31
9. Barnet	21	8	6	7	38	30	30
10. Hull	21	7	9	5	20	18	30
11. Hartlepool	21	8	5	8	28	30	29
12. Kidderminster	19	7	7	5	22	22	28
13. Blackpool	21	8	4	9	29	34	28
14. Macclesfield	21	6	8	7	26	29	26
15. Mansfield	21	6	7	8	31	38	25
16. Lincoln City	20	5	8	7	28	29	23
17. Darlington	21	6	5	10	18	22	23
18. Plymouth	18	6	4	8	21	24	22
19. York	21	6	4	11	20	32	22
20. Shrewsbury	19	6	3	10	18	30	21
21. Torquay	21	5	5	11	27	42	20
22. Exeter	22	4	7	11	17	30	19
23. Halifax	21	3	6	12	21	35	15
24. Carlisle	21	3	4	14	21	37	13

SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Dundee United 1 Rangers 1, Celtic 6 Aberdeen 0, Dunfermline Athletic 2 St Mirren 0, Hibernian 2 St Johnstone 0, Kilmarnock 2 Dundee 3, Motherwell 2 Hearts 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Celtic	**21**	**17**	**3**	**1**	**54**	**21**	**54**
2. Hibernian	21	14	5	2	39	13	47
3. Rangers	20	13	3	4	43	23	42
4. Kilmarnock	21	11	3	7	27	24	36
5. Hearts	21	8	4	9	31	32	28
6. St Johnstone	21	7	7	7	21	27	28
7. Dundee	20	7	5	8	29	23	26
8. Motherwell	21	7	4	10	27	31	25
9. Dunfermline Athletic	21	6	5	10	18	28	23
10. Aberdeen	20	3	8	9	19	34	17
11. St Mirren	21	3	3	15	13	40	12
12. Dundee United	20	1	4	15	13	38	7

LEADING SCORERS

22 - Henrik Larsson (Celtic)

10 - Mixu Paatelainen (Hibernian)

9 - Keigan Parker (St Johnstone), Billy Dodds (Rangers)

8 - Kenny Miller (Rangers)

7 - Chris Sutton (Celtic), Colin Cameron (Hearts), Juan Sara (Dundee), Stuart Elliott (Motherwell), Andy Kirk (Hearts), David Zitelli (Hibernian)

6 - Robbie Winters (Aberdeen), Lee McCulloch (Motherwell), Andy McLaren (Kilmarnock), Jorg Albertz (Rangers), Arild Stavrum (Aberdeen)

5 - Ricky Gillies (St Mirren), Claudio Caniggia (Dundee), Ged Brannan (Motherwell), David Moss (Dunfermline Athletic), Stilian Petrov (Celtic)

4 - Didier Agathe (Hibernian), Steve Crawford (Dunfermline Athletic), Russell Latapy (Hibernian), Paul Wright (Kilmarnock), Lubomir Moravcik (Celtic), Jason Dair (Dunfermline Athletic), Michael Mols (Rangers)

SCOTTISH FIRST DIVISION

Ayr Utd 0 Ross County 2, Clyde 0 Falkirk 3, Inverness CT 4 Airdrie 0, Morton 1 Livingston 2, Raith Rovers 2 Alloa Athletic 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Livingston	**19**	**13**	**4**	**2**	**43**	**19**	**43**
2. Falkirk	19	11	2	6	39	31	35
3. Ayr	19	8	7	4	33	30	31
4. Inverness CT	19	8	4	7	42	31	28
5. Raith	19	7	4	8	28	25	25
6. Clyde	19	6	6	7	25	27	24
7. Ross County	19	6	5	8	18	29	23
8. Alloa	19	5	5	9	20	34	20
9. Airdrie	19	3	7	9	26	34	16
10. Morton	19	4	4	11	17	31	16

SCOTTISH SECOND DIVISION

Arbroath 1 Partick 1, Queens Park 0 Berwick 2, Stenhousemuir OFF Queen of the South, Stirling 0 Clydebank 0, Stranraer 3 Forfar 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Partick	**18**	**10**	**6**	**2**	**27**	**18**	**36**
2. Stranraer	18	9	4	5	30	26	31
3. Berwick	18	7	6	5	29	25	27
4. Stenhousemuir	17	8	2	7	31	29	26
5. Queens Park	18	6	6	6	16	17	24
6. Clydebank	18	6	5	7	22	20	23
7. Arbroath	18	5	8	5	23	22	23
8. Queen of South	17	6	3	8	24	25	21
9. Stirling	18	2	9	7	19	27	15
10. Forfar	18	2	7	9	17	29	13

SCOTTISH THIRD DIVISION

Albion OFF East Fife, Brechin City 2 Elgin City 1, East Stirling OFF Cowdenbeath, Hamilton 2 Dumbarton 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Brechin	**18**	**12**	**4**	**2**	**37**	**19**	**40**
2. Cowdenbeath	17	12	3	2	32	11	39
3. Hamilton	18	10	6	2	35	12	36
4. East Fife	17	8	5	4	23	17	29
5. Albion	17	7	5	5	18	19	26
6. Peterhead	17	7	4	6	24	20	25
7. East Stirling	17	4	3	10	17	34	15
8. Dumbarton	18	3	3	12	17	31	12
9. Elgin	18	2	5	11	18	33	11
10. Montrose	17	1	4	12	11	36	7

ITALIAN SERIE A

Bologna 0 Atalanta 1,Inter Milan 0 Brescia 0, Lazio 0 AS Roma 1, Lecce 1 Juventus 4, Parma 0 Vicenza 2, Udinese 1 Fiorentina 3, Verona 1 AC Milan 1, Napoli 6 Reggina 2, Perugia 4 Bari 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. AS Roma	**11**	**9**	**1**	**1**	**23**	**8**	**28**
2. Juventus	11	6	4	1	19	10	22
3. Atalanta	11	6	4	1	16	8	22
4. AC Milan	11	5	4	2	19	13	19
5. Lazio	11	5	3	3	17	11	18
6. Fiorentina	11	4	5	2	20	16	17
7. Bologna	11	5	2	4	16	13	17
8. Parma	11	5	2	4	13	10	17
9. Udinese	11	5	1	5	18	14	16
10. Perugia	11	3	4	4	15	16	13
11. Inter Milan	11	3	4	4	12	14	13
12. Verona	11	2	6	3	14	18	12
13. Vicenza	11	3	3	5	13	18	12
14. Lecce	11	3	3	5	9	18	12
15. Napoli	11	2	4	5	14	18	10
16. Brescia	11	1	5	5	11	16	8
17. Bari	11	2	2	7	9	19	8
18. Reggina	11	1	1	9	7	25	4

LEADING SCORERS

10 - Andriy Shevchenko (AC Milan), Gabriel Batistuta (AS Roma)

7 - Roberto Carlos Sosa (Udinese)

6 - David Trezeguet (Juventus), Francesco Totti (AS Roma)

5 - Leandro (Fiorentina), Emiliano Bonazzoli (Verona), Luca Toni (Vicenza)

4 - Fausto Rossini (Atalanta Bergamo), Julio Cruz (Bologna), Dario Hubner (Brescia), Nuno Gomez (Fiorentina), Hernan Crespo, Simone Inzaghi (Lazio), Marco Materazzi (Perugia), Roberto Muzzi (Udinese) **3** - Cristiano Doni, Nicola Ventola (Atalanta Bergamo), Phil Masinga (Bari), Enrico Chiesa, Rui Costa (Fiorentina), Alvaro Recoba (Inter Milan), Darko Kovacevic, Zinedine Zidane (Juventus), Pavel Nedved, Marcelo Salas (Lazio), Cristiano Lucarelli, Davor Vugrinec (Lecce), Massimo Ambrosini, Oliver Bierhoff (AC Milan), Nicola Amoruso (Napoli), Sergio Conceicao, Sabri Lamouchi, Patrick Mboma (Parma), Luca Saudati, Giovanni Tedesco, Zissis Vryzas (Perugia), Mohammed Kallon (Vicenza).

SPANISH PRIMERA LIGA

Celta Vigo 2 Real Mallorca 2, Osasuna 2 Numancia 0, Real Oviedo 1 Racing Santander 0, Valencia 2 Malaga 0, Valladolid 0 Athletic Bilbao 0, Alaves 3 Deportivo Coruna 1, Espanyol 1 Real Madrid 2, Rayo Vallecano 2 Barcelona 2, Real Sociedad 0 Villarreal 2, Real Zaragoza 3 Las Palmas 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Valencia	**15**	**9**	**4**	**2**	**27**	**9**	**31**
2. Real Madrid	14	9	2	3	31	17	29
3. Deportivo Coruna	15	8	4	3	25	14	28
4. Rayo Vallecano	15	6	6	3	32	22	24
5. Alaves	15	7	3	5	23	15	24
6. Barcelona	15	7	3	5	29	22	24
7. Real Mallorca	15	6	5	4	18	17	23
8. Real Oviedo	15	7	2	6	20	22	23
9. Villarreal	15	6	4	5	19	18	22
10. Athletic Bilbao	15	5	4	6	20	21	19
11. Celta Vigo	15	5	4	6	19	22	19
12. Real Zaragoza	14	4	6	4	17	15	18
13. Malaga	15	5	3	7	23	25	18
14. Espanyol	15	5	3	7	15	18	18
15. Las Palmas	15	5	3	7	17	32	18
16. Valladolid	15	3	8	4	14	17	17
17. Osasuna	15	2	7	6	14	21	13
18. Racing Santander	15	3	4	8	17	26	13
19. Numancia	15	3	4	8	14	24	13
20. Real Sociedad	15	3	3	9	15	32	12

LEADING SCORERS

12 - Javi Moreno (Alaves)

8 - Rivaldo (Barcelona)

7 - Catanha (Celta Vigo), Juan Sanchez (Valencia), Raul (Real Madrid), Dely Valdes (Malaga)

6 - John Carew (Valencia), Elvir Bolic (Rayo Vallecano), Dario Silva (Malaga), Edgaras Jankauskas (Real Sociedad), Oli (Real Oviedo), Patrick Kluivert (Barcelona), Michel (Rayo Vallecano), Gaizka Mendieta (Valencia), Diego Tristan (Deportivo Coruna), Guti (Real Madrid), Victor (Villarreal)

5 - Paulo Jamelli (Real Zaragoza)

4 - Ariel Ibagaza (Real Mallorca), Ivan Alonso (Alaves), Jose Emilio Amavisca (Racing Santander), Guayre (Las Palmas), Ruben Navarro (Numancia), Alberto Luque (Real Mallorca), Jose Maria Quevedo (Rayo Vallecano), Jon Perez Bolo (Rayo Vallecano), Fernando Hierro (Real Madrid), Robert Losada (Real Oviedo)

GERMAN BUNDESLIGA

Hertha Berlin 1 Bayern Munich 3, Energie Cottbus 3 Werder Bremen 1, VfL Bochum 0 Kaiserslautern 1, VfL Wolfsburg 2 Bayer Leverkusen 0, VfB Stuttgart 0 SC Freiburg 0, Cologne 2 Schalke 04 2, Hansa Rostock 1 Borussia Dortmund 2, TSV 1860 Munich 2 Hamburg SV 1, SpVgg Unterhaching 2 Eintracht Frankfurt 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Schalke 04	**18**	**10**	**4**	**4**	**37**	**19**	**34**
2. Bayern Munich	18	10	3	5	37	20	33
3. Borussia Dortmund	18	10	3	5	29	25	33
4. Bayer Leverkusen	18	9	4	5	28	21	31
5. Kaiserslautern	18	9	3	6	26	23	30
6. Hertha Berlin	18	9	1	8	37	34	28
7. VfL Wolfsburg	18	7	6	5	36	24	27
8. Cologne	18	7	5	6	33	29	26
9. SC Freiburg	18	6	6	6	25	21	24
10. TSV 1860 Munich	18	6	6	6	24	31	24
11. Hamburg SV	18	6	3	9	35	34	21
12. Hansa Rostock	18	6	3	9	19	29	21
13. Werder Bremen	17	5	5	7	23	29	20
14. SpVgg Unterhaching	17	5	5	7	19	27	20
15. Eintracht Frankfurt	18	6	2	10	22	31	20
16. Energie Cottbus	18	6	2	10	22	32	20
17. VfB Stuttgart	18	4	6	8	25	30	18
18. VfL Bochum	18	5	3	10	16	34	18

LEADING SCORERS

13 - Ebbe Sand (Schalke 04)

12 - Sergej Barbarez (Hamburg SV)

11 - Paul Agostino (TSV 1860 Munich)

9 - Elber (Bayern Munich), Oliver Neuville (Bayer Leverkusen), Michael Preetz (Hertha Berlin)

8 - Carsten Jancker (Bayern Munich), Dirk Lottner (Cologne)

7 - Jonathan Akpoborie, Andrzej Juskowiak (both VfL Wolfsburg), Heiko Herrlich (Borussia Dortmund), Marijo Maric (VfL Bochum)

6 - Ailton (Werder Bremen), Andre Breitenreiter (SpVgg Unterhaching), Miroslav Klose (Kaiserslautern), Emile Mpenza (Schalke 04), Thomas Reichenberger (Eintracht Frankfurt), Christian Timm (Cologne), Vasile Miriuta (Energie Cottbus)

FRENCH CHAMPIONNAT

Nantes 3 Toulouse 2, Bastia 1 Paris St Germain 1, En Avant Guingamp 1 Olympique Marseille 0, Sedan 1 Strasbourg 0, RC Lens 2 Girondins Bordeaux 2, Metz 1 Lille 1, Troyes 1 Olympique Lyon 0, Monaco 1 Stade Rennes 2, St Etienne 2 AJ Auxerre 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Sedan	**21**	**10**	**6**	**5**	**31**	**21**	**36**
2. Nantes	21	11	3	7	36	28	36
3. Girondins Bordeaux	21	9	8	4	29	18	35
4. Lille	21	9	7	5	21	15	34
5. Bastia	21	9	5	7	25	21	32
6. En Avant Guingamp	21	9	5	7	24	24	32
7. Olympique Lyon	21	7	10	4	27	18	31
8 RC Lens	21	8	7	6	25	21	31
9. Troyes	21	8	6	7	25	28	30
10. Stade Rennes	21	8	5	8	22	20	29
11. Paris St Germain	21	8	5	8	31	31	29
12. St Etienne	21	7	6	8	29	29	27
13. Monaco	21	7	5	9	29	30	26
14. AJ Auxerre	21	7	5	9	21	26	26
15. Olympique Marseille	21	7	3	11	21	26	24
16. Metz	21	5	7	9	16	25	22
17. Toulouse	21	4	6	11	20	29	18
18. Strasbourg	21	4	5	12	16	40	17

LEADING SCORERS

11 - Laurent Robert (Paris St Germain), Pedro Pauleta (Girondins Bordeaux)

10 - Alex (St Etienne), Frederic Nee (Bastia), Victor Bonilla (Toulouse)

9 - Sladjan Djukic (Troyes), Stephane Guivarc'h (AJ Auxerre)

8 - Sonny Anderson, Steve Marlet (both Olympique Lyon), Bruno Rodriguez (En Avant Guingamp), Cedric Mionnet (Sedan), Viorel Moldovan (Nantes)

7 - Shabani Nonda (Monaco), Nicolas Anelka (PSG), Gerald Baticle (Metz), Marc Wilmots (Girondins Bordeaux)

6 - Toni Brogno and Pius N'Diefi (both Sedan), Fabrice Fiorese (En Avant Guingamp), Cyril Chapuis (Stade Rennes), Nicolas Gousse (Troyes), Djamel Belmadi (Olympique Marseille), Olivier Monterrubio (Nantes).

DUTCH FIRST DIVISION

Ajax Amsterdam 5 Twente Enschede 1, AZ Alkmaar 0 PSV Eindhoven 5, Groningen 1 Feyenoord 0, Graafschap Doetinchem 0 Utrecht 3, RKC Waalwijk 2 Sparta Rotterdam 0, NEC Nijmegen 0 Roda JC Kerkrade 2, RBC Roosendaal 0 Heerenveen 3, Willem II Tilburg 3 Fortuna Sittard 1, NAC Breda 1 Vitesse Arnhem 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Feyenoord	**16**	**13**	**1**	**2**	**39**	**16**	**40**
2. PSV Eindhoven	16	11	4	1	31	11	37
3. Vitesse Arnhem	17	11	4	2	36	23	37
4. Ajax Amsterdam	18	10	3	5	45	24	33
5. Roda JC Kerkrade	18	9	3	6	35	25	30
6. NEC Nijmegen	17	6	9	2	24	17	27
7. RKC Waalwijk	17	7	6	4	18	14	27
8. Utrecht	17	7	3	7	32	29	24
9. Willem II Tilburg	17	6	6	5	25	22	24
10. NAC Breda	17	7	3	7	24	28	24
11. AZ Alkmaar	18	6	5	7	28	32	23
12. Twente Enschede	17	5	5	7	26	31	20
13. Heerenveen	17	4	7	6	19	26	19
14. Groningen	17	5	4	8	23	28	19
15. Graafschap Doetinchem	18	4	1	13	24	38	13
16. Sparta Rotterdam	18	3	4	11	23	37	13
17. RBC Roosendaal	15	3	0	12	21	40	9
18. Fortuna Sittard	17	1	4	12	12	41	7

LEADING SCORERS

14 - Ali Elkhattabi (Sparta Rotterdam), Robin Nelisse (AZ Alkmaar)

13 - Igor Gluscevic (Utrecht)

12 - Mateja Kezman (PSV Eindhoven)

11 - Gorgi Hristov (NEC Nijmegen), Yannis Anastasiou (Roda JC Kerkrade)

9 - Nikos Machlas (Ajax Amsterdam), Jon Dahl Tomasson (Feyenoord), Jan Vennegoor of Hesselink (Twente Enschede)

8 - Martin Drent (Groningen), Matthew Amoah (Vitesse Arnhem)

BELGIAN FIRST DIVISION

Genk 0 Club Bruges 1, Beveren 2 Harelbeke 1, Antwerp 2 Sint-Truiden 0, Anderlecht 3 Eendracht Aalst 0, Lierse 1 Mechelen 1, Ghent 3 Germinal Beerschot 1, Excelsior Mouscron 0 La Louviere 0, Lokeren 2 Standard Liege 1, Charleroi 2 Westerlo 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Club Bruges	**17**	**16**	**0**	**1**	**55**	**10**	**48**
2. Anderlecht	17	14	3	0	50	13	45
3. Standard Liege	17	9	4	4	42	23	31
4. Ghent	17	9	4	4	36	26	31
5. Excelsior Mouscron	17	9	3	5	37	21	30
6. Charleroi	17	9	2	6	30	32	29
7. Westerlo	17	8	4	5	30	26	28
8. Lierse	17	7	4	6	27	24	25
9. Lokeren	17	6	6	5	24	25	24
10. Beveren	17	6	5	6	16	31	23
11. Germinal Beerschot	17	7	1	9	27	28	22
12. Antwerp	17	7	1	9	22	24	22
13. Genk	17	4	6	7	18	22	18
14. Sint-Truiden	17	3	4	10	17	31	13
15. Eendracht Aalst	17	3	4	10	17	41	13
16. Mechelen	17	2	4	11	21	38	10
17. La Louviere	17	1	6	10	12	31	9
18. Harelbeke	17	2	1	14	21	57	7

LEADING SCORERS

15 - Nenad Jestrovic (Excelsior Mouscron)

13 - Jan Koller (Anderlecht), Tomasz Radzinski (Anderlecht).

12 - Gert Verheyen (Club Bruges).

11 - Michael Goossens (Standard Liege).

10 - Sven Vermant (Club Bruges).

GREEK FIRST DIVISION

Ethnikos Asteras 0 Panathinaikos 3, Panionios 1 Kalamata 1, Ionikos 3 Paniliakos 1, Olympiakos 3 PAS Ioannina 1, Athinaikos 3 PAOK Salonika 4, Aris Salonika 0 Panachaiki 0, Iraklis 1 Xanthi 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Olympiakos	**11**	**9**	**2**	**0**	**37**	**10**	**29**
2. Panathinaikos	11	7	4	0	18	5	25
3. Ionikos	11	6	3	2	18	11	21
4. Iraklis	11	6	2	3	15	10	20
5. AEK Athens	10	6	1	3	20	15	19
6. PAOK Salonika	11	5	4	2	23	19	19
7. Ethnikos Asteras	11	5	2	4	15	20	17
8. Aris Salonika	11	4	3	4	13	11	15
9. Xanthi	11	4	3	4	8	12	15
10. Panionios	11	2	6	3	11	14	12
11. Panachaiki	11	2	4	5	13	19	10
12. PAS Ioannina	11	2	3	6	17	23	9
13. Kalamata	11	1	4	6	17	25	7
14. Athinaikos	11	2	1	8	14	25	7
15. Paniliakos	11	1	4	6	6	17	7
16. OFI Crete	10	1	2	7	9	18	5

PORTUGUESE PREMIER LEAGUE

Estrela Amadora 0 Aves 0, Maritimo 1 Farense 1, Benfica 0 Gil Vicente 0, Braga 3 Beira Mar 3, Boavista 5 Salgueiros 0, Pacos Ferreira 0 Sporting 0, Belenenses 1 Alverca 0, Uniao Leiria 3 Porto 1, Campomaiorense 0 Vitoria Guimaraes 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Porto	**15**	**11**	**1**	**3**	**34**	**12**	**34**
2. Boavista	15	9	5	1	34	11	32
3. Sporting	15	9	3	3	25	13	30
4. Belenenses	15	8	4	3	18	12	28
5. Braga	15	8	4	3	26	20	28
6. Benfica	15	7	4	4	22	14	25
7. Salgueiros	15	8	0	7	18	24	24
8. Pacos Ferreira	15	6	5	4	21	13	23
9. Maritimo	15	6	4	5	17	13	22
10. Uniao Leiria	15	5	6	4	17	22	21
11. Farense	15	5	5	5	20	20	20
12. Beira Mar	15	4	4	7	16	24	16
13. Alverca	15	4	3	8	17	28	15
14. Vitoria Guimaraes	15	4	3	8	16	25	15
15. Campomaiorense	15	2	7	6	13	24	13
16. Aves	15	2	4	9	15	26	10
17. Estrela Amadora	15	2	2	11	11	26	8
18. Gil Vicente	15	1	4	10	8	22	7

IRISH FIRST DIVISION

Bray Wanderers 3 Bohemians 1, Cork City 3 Kilkenny City 1, St Patrick's Athletic 0 Shamrock Rovers 1, Finn Harps 0 Derry City 1, Galway United 1 Longford Town 0, Shelbourne 3 University College Dublin 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Shelbourne	**18**	**10**	**5**	**3**	**28**	**16**	**35**
2. Bohemians	18	8	5	5	29	16	29
3. Shamrock Rovers	18	7	8	3	25	17	29
4. Bray Wanderers	18	7	7	4	23	17	28
5. Longford Town	18	8	4	6	23	24	28
6. St Patrick's	18	6	7	5	26	22	25
7. Cork City	18	6	7	5	15	16	25
8. Derry City	17	6	5	6	15	13	23
9. Galway United	18	6	5	7	18	27	23
10. UCD	18	5	5	8	20	25	20
11. Finn Harps	17	3	5	9	15	25	14
12. Kilkenny City	16	1	3	12	8	27	6

MOROCCAN FIRST DIVISION

Raja Beni Mellal 1 Renaissance Settat 2, Chabab Mohammedia 2 Royal Armed Forces 1, Jeunesse Massira 0 Kawbab Marrakesh 0, Tihad Khemisset 0 Wydad Casablanca 0, Hassania Agadir 1 CODM Meknes 0, FUS Rabat 1 Olympic Khouribga 0, Tihad Casablanca 2 RAC Casablanca 1, Raja Casablanca 1 Moghreb Fes 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Raja Casablanca	**12**	**9**	**1**	**2**	**15**	**7**	**28**
2. Renaissance Settat	12	6	4	2	14	7	22
3. Kawkab Marrakesh	12	5	7	0	12	5	22
4. FUS Rabat	12	6	3	3	13	6	21
5. Hassania Agadir	12	5	3	4	10	10	18
6. Wydad Casablanca	11	4	5	2	11	6	17
7. Tihad Casablanca	12	5	2	5	12	14	17
8. Olympic Khouribga	12	3	7	2	9	8	16
9. Tihad Khemisset	12	4	3	5	10	10	15
10. Moghreb Fes	12	3	5	4	7	8	14
11. CODM Meknes	12	3	5	4	10	12	14
12. Chabab Mohamedia	11	3	4	4	9	9	13
13. RAC Casablanca	12	1	8	3	5	7	11
14. Raja Beni Mellal	12	1	6	5	9	12	9
15. Jeunesse Massira	12	1	4	7	7	17	7
16. Royal Armed Forces	12	1	4	7	8	21	7

QANTAS
THE SPIRIT OF AUSTRALIA

National Soccer League

	TOTAL							HOME						AWAY					
	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L	F	A
SYDNEY OLYMPIC	10	6	2	2	17	9	20	5	4	0	1	9	2	5	2	2	2	8	7
WOLLONGONG WOLVES	10	6	2	2	19	13	20	5	3	1	1	8	5	5	3	1	1	11	8
SOUTH MELBOURNE	10	5	4	1	20	9	19	5	3	2	0	13	5	5	2	2	1	7	4
PERTH GLORY	9	5	2	2	18	9	17	5	4	1	0	13	2	4	1	1	2	5	7
PARRAMATTA POWER	10	5	1	4	16	13	16	6	3	0	3	10	10	4	2	1	1	6	3
NORTHERN SPIRIT	10	3	5	2	13	9	14	5	2	3	0	6	2	5	1	2	2	7	7
MELBOURNE KNIGHTS	10	4	2	4	15	16	14	5	3	1	1	10	5	5	1	1	3	5	11
CARLTON SC	8	3	4	1	13	9	13	4	2	2	0	10	4	4	1	2	1	3	5
MARCONI STALLIONS	10	3	4	3	11	10	13	5	2	1	2	7	7	5	1	3	1	4	3
ADELAIDE CITY FORCE	9	4	1	4	12	16	13	5	2	1	2	9	11	4	2	0	2	3	5
SYDNEY UNITED	10	3	3	4	13	20	12	5	2	3	0	9	7	5	1	0	4	4	13
CANBERRA COSMOS	10	3	2	5	18	19	11	4	1	0	3	7	8	6	2	2	2	11	11
BRISBANE STRIKERS	10	2	4	4	13	17	10	4	1	2	1	6	6	6	1	2	3	7	11
FOOTBALL KINGZ	10	2	3	5	14	20	9	5	2	2	1	9	5	5	0	1	4	5	15
NEWCASTLE UNITED	10	1	4	5	6	19	7	5	1	1	3	3	8	5	0	3	2	3	11
EASTERN PRIDE	10	0	3	7	11	21	3	5	0	3	2	5	8	5	0	0	5	5	12

NEWCASTLE UNITED 0
SOUTH MELBOURNE 0

Venue: Marathon Stadium. **Crowd:** 5862. **Referee:** S Micallef.
Cautions: Wieczorek (NU) 75, Durakovic (SM) 83.
Teams: NEWCASTLE UNITED: Catlin, Roberts, Zoricich, McManus, Sprod (McBreen 51), Dodd, Wilson, Magnacca, Buonavoglia, Tsekenis (Trpcevski 91), Wieczorek (Surjan 86).
SOUTH MELBOURNE: Petkovic, DeAmicis, Durakovic, Clarkson (Iosifidis 74), Panopoulos, Covney (Kalogerakos 80), Trimboli, Boutsianis, Vlahos, Susa (Lozanovski 69), Kisnorbo.

PARRAMATTA POWER 2
(Miller 21, Elrich 45)
EASTERN PRIDE 0

Venue: Carrington Park. **Crowd:** TBA. **Referee:** M. Breeze.
Cautions: Puca (EP) 25, Berry (PP) 38, Stergiopoulos (EP) 60, Clark (PP) 81.
Team: PARRAMATTA POWER: Crews, Elrich, Orlic, Tobin, Ardone, Miller, Berry (Griffiths 61), Brown, Blagoevic, Vrkic (Clark 76), Bennet.
EASTERN PRIDE: Jevdjevic, Fak, Griffiths, Watkins, Kim, Stergiopoulos, Bell, Roach, Hutchinson, Wearne, Puca.

LEADING GOALSCORERS
After Round Ten

BURGESS B	(Northern Spirit)	6
MILLER J	(Parramatta)	6
THOMPSON A.	(Carlton SC)	6
VLAHOS A.	(Sth Melb)	6
ANGELUCCI J.	(Canberra)	5
DESPOTOVSKI B	(Perth)	5
FOSTER P	(Brisbane)	5
MORI D.	(Perth Glory)	5
TRIMBOLI P	(Sth Melb)	5

CANBERRA COSMOS 2
(Imaya 43, 46)
SYDNEY OLYMPIC 3
(Owens 35, Parisi 66, 70)

Venue: Bruce Stadium. **Crowd:** 2,011. **Referee:** J. Blaney.
Cautions: Purdue (CC) 24, D Collina (SO) 29, Angelucci (CC) 41, Rakic (CC) 71, Ravanello (CC) 85.
Teams: CANBERRA COSMOS: Konstantinou, Popovich, Ravanello, Purdue (Scott 73), Imaya, Angelucci (Hagger 79), Arranz, Cortes, Lyons (Rakic 63), Hooker, Miyazawa.
SYDNEY OLYMPIC: Bolton, Sinozic, Kohler (Augerinos 45), Baillie, Juric, Marusic, Halpin (Parisi 64), Collina (Moore 70), Owens, Carle, Zorbas.

BRISBANE STRIKERS 1
(Foster 72)
FOOTBALL KINGZ 1
(W Rufer 45)

Venue: Suncorp Stadium. **Crowd:** 2,500. **Referee:** K. Stock (USA)
Cautions: Foster (BS) 14, Smeltz (BS) 40, Perry (FK) 44, Ngata (FK) 48, Meredith (BS) 65.
Team: BRISBANE STRIKERS: Duke, Stefanutto, Bell (Webber 75), Foster, Srhoj, McLaren, North (Drake 79), Davidson, Smeltz (Dwyer 63), Meredith, Rech.
FOOTBALL KINGZ: Marsh, Lines, Osman, Perry, Rufer (Stevens 63), Bluhm, Ngata (Jones 83), Vicelich, Cartwright, Van Steeden, Burton.

PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Newcastle United's BOB CATLIN: Kept his 100th NSL clean sheet in the 0-0 draw against South Melbourne.

WOLLONGONG WOLVES 2
(Petrovski 49, Ceccoli 80)
SYDNEY UNITED 0

Venue: WIN Stadium. **Crowd:** 3,339. **Referee:** G. Connolly.
Cautions: Chipperfield (WW) 29, Younis (SU) 21, Palaparis (SU) 38, Genc (SU) 44.
Team: WOLLONGONG WOLVES: Barlow, Souris (O'Grady 87), Ceccoli, Horsley, Reid, Petrovski, Young (Nicholson 81), Chipperfield, Huxley, Blake, Mennillo.
SYDNEY UNITED: Tolios, Burt, Piesa, Younis, Arambasic, Maric, Deur (Menapi 73), Rastall, Genc, Talevski (Arrarte 85), Palaparis (Webb 64).

MARCONI STALLIONS 0
ADELAIDE CITY 2
(Pelosi 59 & 82)

Venue: Marconi Stadium. **Crowd:** 2,981. **Referee:** B Hugo.
Cautions: Longo (MS) 41, Lagati (AC) 43, Last (MS) 44, Tunbridge (AC) 45, Bell (MS) 82, Bucciarelli (AC) 89.
Red Cards: Bucciarelli (AC) 91.
Teams: MARCONI STALLIONS: Aceski, Costanzo, Longo, Kim, Afkos, Care (McDonald 61), Farah, Brownlie (Karl 61), Bell, Trajanovski, Last (Gibson 46).
ADELAIDE CITY: Cagalj, Lagati, Kovacevic, Bucciarelli, Veart, Vidmar, Hassell, Tunbridge (Day 65), Pantelis, Karlovic, Pelosi.

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS 1
(Porter 65)
NORTHERN SPIRIT 1
(Burgess 48)

Venue: Knights Stadium. **Crowd:** 3,820. **Referee:** E Lennie.
Cautions: Nastevski (MK) 45, Bingley (NS) 51, Foster (NS) 53, Ognenovski (MK) 79, Thomas (NS) 82.
Teams: MELBOURNE KNIGHTS: Acevski, R. Vargas, Ognenovski, Vukadin, Rajher (Banini 75), Nastevski, Porter (Pelikan 77), Kiratzogiou, A. Vargas, Zold, Cervinski.
NORTHERN SPIRIT: Henderson, Arnold, Bingley, Cunico, Enes, Foster (Bilokapic 89), Thomas, Cranney (Spencer 46), Langdon, Burgess, Moreira (Griffiths 73).

CARLTON SC
VS
PERTH GLORY

Match Postponed until further notice

ROUND 11

FRIDAY DECEMBER 22

Northern Spirit	vs	Brisbane Strikers
Adelaide City	vs	Melbourne Knights
Football Kingz	vs	Parramatta Power

SATURDAY DECEMBER 23

Perth Glory	vs	Marconi Stallions
Eastern Pride	vs	Canberra Cosmos
Sydney United	vs	South Melbourne
Sydney Olympic	vs	Wollongong Wolves
Carlton SC	vs	Newcastle Breakers